

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
South Farmingdale Board of Fire Commissioners
May 13, 2025

At approximately 7:05pm, Commissioner Forry called the meeting to order and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioner M. Suwalski, Commissioner P. Fullshire, Commissioner M. Mackie, and the District Secretary were also in attendance. Commissioner J. Tasch was absent. Chief McFarlane and Chief Witt were also present.

The minutes from April 22, 2025, were discussed. Motion by Commissioner Fullshire to approve the minutes with all changes, seconded by Commissioner Mackie.

At approximately 7:08pm one (1) new member was sworn into the department by Commissioner Forry.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				
Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed.

Chief's Report:

1. Personnel

- According to our records, there are three members on medical leave. One ex-chief completed his physical, but the chief's office has not been advised of his status by either the board or the member.
- It is my understanding, after speaking with the district lawyer at the last department meeting, that a member who is currently receiving a disability pension can remain as an active member of the department if they can pass their physical from the district physician. We have one member who we believe falls into this category, as he was deemed a class B member by the doctor.

2. Training and Preparedness

- The training committee has been working hard to provide the membership with better training to ensure they can learn and improve their craft.

- The department is attending Department Operations at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy on Thursday evenings this month. We are currently in week three (3) of four (4).

3. Vehicles and Equipment

- 971 has an air leak and is waiting to be repaired.
- There have been minor issues with department vehicles, but those repairs have been completed.

4. Radio and Communications

- This weekend, there was an issue with the department's frequency, but luckily, we did not lose any communication with Firecom. Commissioner Mackie informed me that the radio repairs were completed that same day.

5. Buildings and Grounds

- This evening, I would like to discuss scheduling a house inspection for some time after Memorial Day.

6. Miscellaneous

- I recently investigated the board's request for me to provide monthly member percentage reports. I do not see anything written in the department bylaws or district policies stating that these percentages must be reported monthly. The policies only state that these reports are to be provided quarterly. Please clarify with the chief's office why monthly reports are necessary at this time.
- On behalf of the Chief's Office and the department, we would like to thank the Board of Fire Commissioners for a wonderful installation dinner. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from members and guests on the venue and the event itself.

Treasurer's report:

Our signature card with Flushing Bank has been updated to include all Board members as signers.

Total warrants for May 13, 2025 are \$58,932.76

Ace Hardware	\$ 251.08
AIR PURIFIER	\$ 3,406.00
ALL AMERICAN AWARDS	\$ 196.88
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 535.22
BAR BOY PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 101.00
BARNWELL HOUSE OF TIRES	\$ 35.00
Cablevision Lightpath LLC	\$ 3,143.28
Carr Business Systems	\$ 118.27
Carrot-Top Industries	\$ 1,614.29
COMMANDER FLEET CORP.	\$ 3,546.18
David B. Walker Designs, LLC	\$ 175.00
DIALOGUE VOICE LLC	\$ 80.00

EDWARD MOJICA INSTALLATIONS, INC.	\$ 485.00
FARMINGDALE BEVERAGE	\$ 239.90
Firefighters Equipment of NY	\$ 604.95
FLOWER SHOP OF FARMINGDALE	\$ 489.99
GR FARMINGDALE II LLC	\$ 30.00
HY-TONE	\$ 473.50
IN FULL BLOOM	\$ 1,937.50
JOHN BROWN LADDER COMPANY	\$ 2,175.26
Merlin Printing Inc	\$ 959.00
NYS ASSOC. OF FIRE CHIEFS	\$ 525.00
NYS EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PENDING	\$ 1,479.53
RBC Wealth Management	\$ 25,000.00
SES, Inc	\$ 85.00
South Farmingdale Fire Dept	\$ 1,189.39
South Shore Fire Equip. Dist.	\$ 1,032.68
Sterling Sanitary Supply Corp	\$ 138.39
VERIZON	\$ 571.96
Wex Bank	\$ 1,985.67
Xerox Corporation	\$ 360.40
MEDICAL WAREHOUSE	\$ 1,732.79
NATIONAL GRID	\$ 1,670.83
PSEG	\$ 2,563.82
TOTAL:	\$ 58,932.76

Motion by Commissioner Fullshire, seconded by Commissioner Mackie to accept the warrant and pay all bills.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				
Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed.

Apparatus – Commissioner Forry

976: The right front tire had a screw in the tire tread. Barnwell House of Tires repaired the tire on April 24, 2025.

978: Commander Fleet picked up the vehicle on Monday, April 29, 2025 for a PM. The handle for the roll-up cabinet door was also replaced.

We received a quote from Hendrickson Fire and Rescue to install LED lights in the lower portion of the cab doors for the two new pumpers. The total cost for both vehicles would be \$6,213.52.

Audit & Bonds

Status quo

Buildings & Grounds – Commissioner Fullshire

The garage door at headquarters has been repaired. The sink in the men's bathroom downstairs will need to be replaced. We are looking to purchase a new gas grill for the department. The one we currently have is rusted and no longer usable. New flags and flagpoles have been ordered. We will need to compile a bid specification for the roof. The Neiderman Exhaust system was serviced by Air Purifiers Inc. and is now in working order.

We received two quotes to remove the fence and asphalt as discussed. We were quoted at \$9,000.00 and \$7,250.00. The quotes include removing the step, concrete curb and slab outside of existing rear door. It also includes building new paver steps and walkway to the grass area and gate.

Commissioner Forry received a quote from Allmark Door for the front entrance exterior and interior door repairs. The total cost of the quote was \$5,798.47. The cost includes installation of new sweeps, weatherstripping, and closers on the four existing doors.

Commissioner Forry ordered the 24" wreath for the Department Memorial for the Memorial Day Ceremony at headquarters.

Capital Improvements – Commissioner Fullshire

CCM Roofing has sent us a proposal.

Communications & Alerting – Commissioner Mackie

We are waiting on the delivery date of the two new engines and the heavy rescue vehicle so that I can set up the radio installation on those vehicles. We need to discuss the installation of mic wire to the fire compartment on engines for high-band radio. Our high-band UHF channel went down on Saturday morning at headquarters. I met with Eastern Communications, and they resolved the situation. The light path server needed to be reset. In the meantime, we were on a backup repeater that Firecom has in place for emergencies.

District Reports, Communications & Petitions – District Secretary

We received an invitation to the Bethpage Fire District Installation Dinner.

We received information about applying for the State Farm Good Neighbor Safety Program Grant. This grant provides \$10,000 to local fire departments to purchase necessary equipment. Please look through the eligible equipment list and let the district manager know if the department could benefit from any of those items.

There are five (5) conferences being held in 2025. Please let us know by the end of the week if you would like to attend.

Emergency Preparedness – Commissioner Tasch

All stocked for the final weeks of County School.

Equipment – Commissioner Suwalski

Firefighters' equipment has returned a firefighter's jacket that needed repair.

Commissioner Fullshire has received a quote for new Hurst tools. Handlights and two (2) new Pak trackers were ordered for the new apparatus vehicles. A half-sked was ordered for the 979. The truck company is requesting a 9-inch Dewalt cut-off saw.

EMS hat shields have been ordered. We currently have enough EMS coat shields. New EMS gear was distributed to the members of the EMS squad. The overstock gear was placed into inventory at Station 2.

Uniforms from the closet have been handed out to members, and we have received a list from the department secretary of those members who need new uniforms.

When a member resigns or is terminated, all gear needs to be returned to the Board at the same time. The Board will provide a tote to be placed in the chief's office to gather all items.

Fuel – Commissioner Tasch

Fuel paid for April. Fuel receipts must be turned in before the end of each month.

IT Computers / Printers / Cable – Commissioner Mackie

The CAD interface to the PCR program was knocked out when Atlantic PC rebooted the main server. Repair was completed on a conference call between Commissioner Mackie, the vendors, and Captain Sturm.

Insurance & Personnel – Commissioner Tasch

Two (2) members have returned from educational leave, and two (2) members have recently resigned from the department.

Legal / Government – Commissioner Suwalski

Commissioner Suwalski proposes that the district should hire a proctor to conduct annual assessments on all active members to ensure that they are able to meet the physical qualifications to remain in their roles.

LOSAP – Commissioner Tasch

Checks have been mailed to members who are over 62 and have fulfilled their 2024 requirements.

The additional contribution to the Defined Benefit fund has been completed.

I would like to arrange a Zoom call with Tony Hill (Firefly) and RBC Wealth Management to discuss our 2024 review and provide us with future projections and suggestions for moving forward. Please select a few dates we can give them to arrange this meeting.

Miscellaneous:

Thank you to everyone who assisted with putting together the installation dinner. It turned out to be a nice evening.

Physicals / Medical Screenings – Commissioner Tasch

Several new applicants were instructed to set up their physicals.

The district manager is meeting with Dr. Fogel on May 15, 2025 to review physician's physical examination procedure.

Policy & Procedure – Commissioner Suwalski

We need clarification on probationary members becoming chauffeurs.

Chiefs will need to provide documentation and clarification on EMS response protocols.

Inactive members who wish to become active members must reapply to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Trainings – Commissioner Mackie

EVOC train the trainer class took place on Friday, May 10, 2025 and Saturday May 11, 2025. We now have four (4) more instructors.

Eddie Pullen is coming at the end of this month to complete the bailout window at Station 2. I will be meeting with him one more time to go over everything before installation.

Utilities / Gas / Electric – Commissioner Mackie

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Commissioner Fullshire, seconded by Commissioner Mackie, to have Hendrickson install LED lights in the lower portion of the cab doors for the two new pumpers. The total cost for both vehicles would be \$6,213.52.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				

Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed.

New Business

Motion to approve new applicant 2025M, pending background and DMV check, by Commissioner Mackie, seconded by Commissioner Fullshire.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				
Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed.

Motion made by Commissioner Fullshire, seconded by Commissioner Mackie to purchase various Hurst tools for the new 979 vehicle, including two (2) rams, a cutter, a spreader, six (6) batteries, and three (3) chargers at the cost of \$31,494.47.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				
Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed.

Motion made by Commissioner Fullshire, seconded by Commissioner Suwalski, to purchase a Big John stainless steel gas hood grill for the department at the cost of \$4,350.51.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				

Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed

Motion made by Commissioner Mackie, seconded by Commissioner Fullshire, to hire Mignones Masonry to repair the steps into the backyard area at the cost of \$7,250.00.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				
Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed

Motion made by Commissioner Fullshire, seconded by Commissioner Suwalski, to host the 2026 installation dinner at the Fox Hollow and to pay the \$1,000.00 deposit to reserve the event.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				
Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed

Motion made by Commissioner Fullshire, seconded by Commissioner Mackie, to hire Allmark Door to complete the front entrance exterior and interior door repairs at a cost of \$5,798.47.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Forry				

Commissioner Suwalski	X			
Commissioner Tasch				X
Commissioner Fullshire	X			
Commissioner Mackie	X			

Motion passed

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Fullshire, seconded by Commissioner Suwalski at 9:28pm.

Siobhan Domingo
District Secretary