



**Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, October 5th, 2022
Station 43 North Corning Fire Dept, Inc.**

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Commissioner Shafer at 1732
2. Roll Call of Commissioners present Commissioner Clarkson, Commissioner Eccleston, Commissioner Gridley, Commissioner Shafer Absent: Commissioner Burrell
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Motion to initiate a conference call with Paul Cognetta from Penflex/McNeil & Co. about implementing Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAP) for Fire & EMS Volunteers by Commissioner Eccleston. Second by Commissioner Clarkson. Carried. None opposed. Have over 400 clients, 40,000 participants through NYS. Have to earn 50 points within one year to earn credit. NYS has a template for a point system to allow this. There is some flexibility in how the points are obtained. The member must obtain 50 points to achieve. Two types of plans to choose from: Defined contribution plan and Defined benefit plan.
 - Defined contribution: sponsor (Town or Fire District) puts in a dedicated flat dollar amount each year (i.e. \$10 per month/\$120 year). NYS allows \$1,200 per year. Normal range is \$1,000. 15 years of credited service would equal \$15,000 for \$1,000 placed aside each year. Would receive at entitlement age. District would choose the entitlement age which is between 55-65 years of age.
 - Defined benefit plan: Based on lifetime annuity payment. \$20/month or \$30/month distribution multiplied by years. Example: \$20/month for someone in 10 years. Total \$200 per month for their life until they pass away. May have a ten-year guarantee.
 - Can put together an estimate based on the census that Commissioner Shafer submitted.
 - To have cost estimate will need: Entitlement age, if you choose defined contribution plan- what level of money do you want to contribute (\$10 up to \$1,200 max), and if defined benefit, do we want \$20 or \$30 a month. Also what age do you want benefit paid out?
 - Five-year lookback available. Can look back over 5 years and determine who is eligible. Can make this retrospective and fund back 5 years prior. There is a cost for this but can be paid over time.
 - Can choose investment options to optionally grow the plan. With defined contribution, you are just putting in that flat contribution. The gains/losses will only apply to the member as we are only making the contribution. With defined benefit, actuary must be in place. Will look at age and what is being paid out. Doing calculations and annually a LOSAT report will be sent to CJFD. The report will inform CJFD what will need to be invested. This will be given early for planning.
 - If you take the benefit in installments, state tax does not need to be paid. State tax only if paid in one installment. Federal tax still applies.
 - Penflex will work on resolution for what is decided by CJFD board. Voter proposition will be created by Penflex. Taxpayers are funding LOSAT plan. Referendum will be created as well by Penflex for 30-day advance notice. Will help create point system. Every year in December will send Data Request Package that is tracking the points for our members (history of the year of credited services). This allows each member and CJFD Commissioners to know how many points have been earned each year. Separate letter is sent to each participant for personal tracking. They will need to complete the report on Roster of membership to determine what points have been earned for that given year.
 - Most plans need 5-year to be vested in the plan.

- If someone goes beyond entitlement age, will continue to earn additional money onto their payout. The participant would receive payout and then receive additional funds and build on to the funds.
 - If ten-year guarantee is chosen, and the participant dies before ten-year payout, the full plan is distributed. If ten-year plan is not chosen, then the money goes back into the plan.
 - If no beneficiary is made the payout cannot be made after the fact. Probate would be needed and would need to be placed into an estate.
 - Will send flyer with information on both plans to Commissioner Shafer to share with the board.
5. Motion to approve minutes of CJFD Board of Fire Commissioner meeting on September 7th, 2022 tabled until next month.
 6. Motion to approve the following nominations for membership in the Fire Companies that comprise the firefighting force of the Corning Joint Fire District by Commissioner Eccleston. Second by Commissioner Gridley pending their approval and background check from each prospective station.
 - Stations 16/34/43: Colin Thomas (16) Keefe Ehrenberg (34)
 7. Motion to accept the resignation of Firefighter Lon Fiscus (Sta 34), effective 9/12/2022 by Commissioner Eccleston. Second by Commissioner Gridley. Carried. None opposed.
 8. Motion to receive and review the Treasurer's Report by Commissioner Eccleston. Second by Commissioner Gridley. Carried. None opposed.
 - Motion by Commissioner Gridley to approve payment of monthly bills on CJFD's Expense Report for 10/05/2022 plus \$38.65 for member fuel reimbursement. Second by Commissioner Clarkson. Receipts have been submitted with appropriate form. Total: \$20,918.40. Carried. None opposed.
 - Review final version of EFPR's 2021 Report to the Board, AUD & Independent Auditor's Report. Document given to board for review including AUD report and 2021 Report.
 - Motion to review and act on final Estimate of 2022 Year-End Balances for CJFD. Reserve accounts are static. Expenses will most likely be moved more due to final 2022 expenses in November/December.
 9. Motion by Commissioner Clarkson to review and act on Resolution 2022-10 authorizing the sale of Engine 59 to the Thurston Fire District with 7 equal payments of \$10,714.28 . Second by Commissioner Eccleston. No interest being charged due to annual budget of Thurston Fire District of \$35,000. Lien will be placed on engine until paid for in full. Carried. None opposed.
 10. Motion by Commissioner Clarkson approve Resolution 2022-11 regarding disposal of CJFD surplus equipment valued at less than \$20,000 (e.g. Holmatro power tool set) by donating it to the Thurston Fire District as part of the sale of Engine 59 to that organization. Second by Commissioner Gridley. Carried. None opposed.
 11. Motion by Commissioner Eccleston to discuss status of the following CJFD initiatives.. Second by Commissioner Gridley. Carried. None opposed.
 - Paving project-Station 16 Commissioner Shafer states no further information.
 - Discussion about status of transferring ownership of Stations 16 & 43 to CJFD. Has not heard anything back yet. Awaiting more information.
 - Discussion about status of Feasibility Study for replacing Station 34. Village added into the plan as a possibility. New proposal topped the price list at over \$9 million. Renovation of town hall was approx. \$7.5 million. New building on Clark St. plot was approx. \$8.5 million. Awaiting more information. \$100,000 could be appropriated per year which only allocated \$3 million. Looking for all invested in agreeing on plan moving forward and then looking for funding. Chief Brenning requesting CJFD Commissioners preference on proposal by mid-November. CJFD agreeable to have ideas in place. Chief Brenning would like plan in place by beginning of year.
 - Commissioner Shafer to set up meeting to discuss options noted above at 7pm October 19, 2022.
 12. Motion to discuss recruitment initiatives for CJFD by Commissioner Eccleston. Second by Commissioner Clarkson. Carried. None opposed.

- Development of recruitment outreach goals and initiatives. Jeff Brenning to discuss with mentors what participants have signed on and how we can keep momentum going forward. Brad Jacobus recommends inviting camp graduates to annual banquet to keep in touch with them and recognize them for their efforts. Invite participants to picnic with their family to show recognition as well.
- Stipends verses LOSAP program. Chief Nehring looking at point system for semi-annual "purchase" items you can use with your "points." (i.e. leather helmet, flashlights...)
- Motion by Commissioner Eccleston to approve installation dinner for mid-February. \$5,000 in budget. To be held at Corning Legion at available date in February. Second by Commissioner Gridley. Carried. None opposed.

13. Motion to discuss firematic-related topics with District Chief and Deputy Chiefs by Commissioner Gridley. Second by Commissioner Eccleston. Carried. None opposed.

- Update: Proposed Community Service Programming (i.e. Fire Prevention, Smoke Alarms/Rotary Club grant, etc.). Update given by Jenniffer Mullen on smoke detector program. Flyer being requested by Rotary and Jen Mullen creating it. Requesting CJFD Commissioners to approve and then send to Rotary.
- Fire Prevention is scheduled for October 14th at Smith School and October 19th at Once Upon a Preschool.
- Review New SOPs:
 - Election of Officers: Noted lack of candidates for office. New SOP would create 3 assistant chiefs with district-wide authority. Allows for candidates to fill the positions.. 1 Captain and 4 Lieutenant's will be appointed by Chief. Nominations for Chief, Deputy Chief, and Assistant Chief will be voted on district wide by appropriate membership. Matter will be reviewed further at our meeting on 10/19 so Commissioners and officers have time to review.
 - Chain of Command SOP reviewed. Will be placed on the agenda 10/19 so Commissioners and officers have time to review.
- Chief Brenning given permission to order Asst Chief Peterson new coat.
- Propane for camp discussed. 300 gallon tank for propane needed. Griffith will set the tank for free. Propane \$2.70/gallon. Would like set in back of station 16 for burns this winter. Approximately \$810. Motion by Commissioner Gridley to complete this. Second by Commissioner Clarkson. Carried. None opposed.

14. Visitor's Comments: none

15. Motion to adjourn the meeting @ 1911 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenniffer Mullen, Secretary

Upcoming Events / Important Dates:

Wednesday, October 19th, 2022, CJFD Public Hearing on Proposed 2023 Budget at Station 43 at 7:00pm.
Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022, CJFD Fire Commissioner's Monthly Meeting at Station 43 at 5:30pm