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LEGISLATIVE/FINANCIAL/CHIEFS MEETING

August 26th, 2025

Meeting called to order at 2000 hours with roll call of officers. Present were Chairman Buchner, Vice Chairman Strong, Commissioner Handel, Commissioner Staufer, DM Brewer, DS Lattman, Treasurer Hauser, Chief Martin, and Asst. Chiefs Freund and Kowalchuk. Also present were guests Walter Birney, Harry McCabe, and Kiran Malhotra. Absent were Commissioner Gallino and Asst. Chief Bernier.

Next meeting will be September 16th, 2025.

Acceptance of minutes from July 22nd, 2025 meeting motion made by Comm Strong, 2nd by Comm Staufer, All in favor.

CHIEFS REPORT

30 presented the personnel report.

Member Jack Crowley is requesting an education leave from 8/8/25-5/31/26. Motion to accept by Comm Buchner, 2nd by Comm Handel, all in favor.

Member David Almeida is requesting an education leave beginning 8/13/25. This was tabled to next meeting pending resubmission of a letter with an accurate time frame.

Motion made by Comm Buchner to accept resignation in good standings of member Michelle Wooley, 2nd by Comm Strong, all-in favor.

30 presented a quote for a 17ft Little Giant Ladder from MES Service Company at \$447.99 on behalf of Co. 1 to be placed on Rescue 4. Motion to accept made by Comm Strong, 2nd by Comm Staufer, all in favor.

30 presented a request from Co. 1 for a small sized face piece for FF Anthony Meringolo. Motion to accept made by Comm Staufer, 2nd by Comm Handel, all in favor. DM to order.

30 requested full Class A uniforms for the following members: Greg Jackson, Ed Carley, Justin Lattman, Class A uniform jacket for Sarah Lavery, and Class A pants for Kevin Fox. Motion to accept made by Comm Strong, 2nd by Comm Staufer, all in favor. Members to go to Rico's Clothing to get sized.

The chiefs asked for permission to subscribe to the electric vehicle app for the truck tablets at \$19.99/year. Motion to accept made by Comm Strong, 2nd by Comm Staufer, all in favor.

30 presented a quote on behalf of 31 for replacement trail markers in the DEC property from Alley Cat Signs for \$1,572.50. Motion to accept by Comm Strong, 2nd by Comm Staufer, all in favor.

30 asked for permission for member Al Delettera to use 27 to attend Intro to Fire Officer class at SCFA in Yaphank on 9/18-9/25 and 10/23-10/30. Motion to approve by Comm Staufer, 2nd by Comm Buchner, all in favor.

30 requested for the 9/11 memorial site to be prepared for the ceremony. The Board stated Rob is working on this.

ASST CHIEFS REPORT

The bunker gear has been ordered. All members were sized. No ETA on delivery.

The SCBA/bailout module in Red Alert is still a work in progress.

Requesting a full report on the hose testing. DM to print and give to the chiefs.

Asked for an update on the signal 8 budgets for Co. 1 and Co. 2. Board stated they will discuss.

Requested permission to look into Language Line Services to be added into the Chiefs and 80-unit tablets. SCPD has this service. Board ok'd looking into this. DM to take care of.

Asked if there is a backup plan for 28/28b. Comm Strong gave an update. The plan is to switch the bodies on the trucks in the off-season. Unfortunately, the truck was a break down at the most recent drill. Gerard is waiting on parts to repair the truck. 95b will be available when the work is being done.

Asked if there is any update on balancing paid EMS staff for weekend coverage. The board stated that they are working towards this and will hopefully soon see improvement.

Requested the district lawyer to send a letter to recover district items from Jack Fenech who has not returned any items after many attempts from the chiefs. DM to advise district lawyer.

33 gave a report on the Fire Prevention event that will take place on 10/10/25 from 6p-8p. Lights, trailer, and other materials have been ordered from the county. 33 asked the board to confirm the budget for supplies for the event. Treasurer Hauser will confirm.

Comm Strong asked for an update on the members trialing new gear. 32 gave a brief report so far from the members.

COMMISSIONERS TO CHIEFS

Comm Buchner- Asked the chiefs about the new radios. Chiefs stated the new radios are working out well and discussed minor things they noticed.

Stated his disappointment regarding the responses and cancellation of the Department picnic. Thanked the benevolent for their efforts and underwriting the picnic.

Comm Staufer – Presented 2 quotes for a ram plate for Co. 1 and Co. 2. Firematic- \$420.94 each.

Chivvis- \$375.00 each. Motion made by Comm Staufer to accept purchase from Chivvis totaling \$750.00, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

Reported the (3) multi force airbags from Paratech have been delivered. 30 is following up with Jason at Strategic Safety Dynamics regarding an adapter.

Comm Handel- Presented a new draft recruitment flyer to the chiefs and asked for feedback.

Comm Strong- Reported seal coating at Co. 2 will be 9/3, 9/4, 9/5. Comm Strong to notify SCPD. 30 to notify membership.

DISTRICT MANAGER TO CHIEFS

Was notified by Steve Capell of trainings held by VFIS for emergency vehicle training in September and October. DM will give chiefs a copy of the flyer for anyone interested.

Sayville Fire Department is hosting a National Certification Pro Board Exam and Class for Incident Safety Officers on 9/27 and 10/25 from 8a-4p. Test date TBD. For full registration the cost is \$495.00. For Refresher registration the cost is \$200.00. For exam and review the cost is \$295.00. DM will give a copy of the flyer to the chiefs for anyone interested.

Followed up on a question from 32 regarding spare batteries for the new radios. DM asked the board if they would like him to get quotes for this. Board ok'd. DM to research.

Presented the chiefs with a \$100 donation from Peggy Tuttle in response to allowing her to use our backboards for her lifeguard training. Presented the chiefs with a \$2 donation from an old membership application found during the records retention process by Comm Handel.

Pump testing is scheduled for 10/28 beginning at 7am.

The office received a call from the Property Manager at Shoreham Plaza with new access information for the building. Information was given to dispatch to report in Red Alert and given to 30 to discuss with membership.

At 2038 hours, 30 requested executive session to discuss personnel. Motion to enter executive made by Comm Buchner, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

At 2102 hours, a motion was made by Comm Buchner to exit executive session, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor. At this time guests Walter Birney and Harry McCabe entered the regular meeting.

A motion was made by Comm Buchner to uphold the chiefs recommendation for the suspension of member Joseph Guido effective July 31st, 2025 to December 31st, 2025 at 11:59pm, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

DS Lattman asked the chiefs for an update on the list of members approved to be reimbursed for the Joey D training at SCFA. 32 will submit list.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Comm Strong- The rack truck has been delivered. DM to register vehicle.

28 is currently in repair. Gerard is replacing the clutch.

The computer for 26 has been sent out for diagnostic testing.

Discussed pros for the interest in purchasing pick up trucks for the upcoming new fire police vehicle and new chief vehicle. The board is not opposed to this. The board will discuss funds with Treasurer Hauser.

Researching prices for the body swap for 28/28b.

The GI we purchased from North Amityville is currently a work in progress.

The HVAC repair at Co. 2 is complete. Rob will obtain pictures of all repairs from Soundview in order to possibly pursue legal action with Rose Mechanical. Discussion held.

The tripping hazard at Co. 2 picnic area has been repaired.

The fans on the bay floor of Co. 2 will be installed next week.

The fridge in the Co. 2 ready room is installed.

The gear dryer for Co. 2 has been delivered. Rob to install.

The Ex-Chiefs and Past Commissioners wall is almost complete. Rob to install name plates.

Gave a report on the Department Memorial Committee and possible fundraising.

Gave an update on the proposed storage building. DM to give Comm Strong update from district lawyer regarding the proposed building. DM is working on the permits with Town of Brookhaven.

Comm Handel- Co. 1 is requesting 2 electrical reels to be installed on the bay floor next to 28 on the wall and on the ceiling above 28. Presented a quote from Home Depot for \$46.99/each. Motion to accept by Comm Handel, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor. Rob to install.

Gave a report on the records retention project. The chief's house has been emptied of all records. Maria from NYS Archives took 112 boxes of records to be shredded. Comm Handel proposed the idea of working with the Town of Brookhaven to store our remaining records at their new climate-controlled archives building for \$3.00 per box per year. This would be until hopefully we are awarded a grant for digitizing the records. The board will speak to Treasurer Hauser to discuss this for the budget for 2026.

Requested replacement file cabinets for the district office. The current cabinets are rusted and do not work properly. Presented a quote from Uline for (5) 3 drawer lateral cabinets for a total of \$3,425. Motion made to accept by Comm Handel, 2nd by Comm Buchner, all in favor.

Requested replacement flooring for the carpet in the district office. Presented a quote from Floor Jays for \$3,925.80. Motion made to accept by Comm Handel, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

Requested a TV for 89 West. Presented 3 quotes from Amazon: \$359.99, \$446.99, \$548.00. A motion was made by Comm Handel to accept quote from Amazon for \$359.99, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

Requested a TV mount for 89 West from Amazon for \$22.99. Motion made by Comm Handel to accept, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor. Rob to install.

Meeting with Adept Tech tomorrow at 6pm to discuss replacement options for Red Alert.

Discussed NYS Paid Family Medical Leave Act policies. A motion was made by Comm Handel to adopt the NYS Paid Family Medical Leave Act for the employee-paid benefit option, 2nd by Comm Buchner, all in favor.

Comm Stauffer-

Interviews took place for EMS hiring. We hired 4 per diem EMS personnel.

Requested (10) pairs of EMS boots for full time employees. Presented a quote from Hi-Tech Fire Safety for \$318.78/each totaling \$3,018.78. Motion made to accept by Comm Stauffer, 2nd by Comm Handel, all in favor.

Requested uniforms for EMS employees. Presented a quote from Inkterprise Inc for short sleeve polos and baseball caps totaling \$2960.00. Motion made by Comm Stauffer to accept, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor. Also presented a quote for winter uniforms for EMS employees for sweatshirts and beanies from Inkterprise Inc totaling \$3,608.00. Motion to accept by Comm Stauffer, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

Requested uniforms for EMS new hires. Presented a quote from Inkterprise Inc for \$832.50. Motion to accept by Comm Staufer, 2nd by Comm Buchner, all in favor.

Presented the following quotes for EMS:

- Bound Tree- replacement narcotic pouches- \$317.94
- Bound Tree- replacement seal bags for ketamine in narcotic pouches- \$219.99
- Bound Tree- Pelican medical cases- \$491.15
- Bound Tree- medical supplies- \$4,681.41
- Hammer Medical- medical supplies- \$1,357.51

Motion made by Comm Staufer to accept all quotes, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

Presented a quote from Stryker Pro Care Services for all stretchers and stair chairs for a 36month renewal. To pay monthly, the total would cost \$44,139.60. If we pay the amount upfront in full, the total will come to \$39,235.20. Motion made by Comm Staufer to accept quote from Stryker to pay upfront in full for \$39,235.20, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

Discussed voucher policy. This was table to next meeting.

Presented the dispatch report.

Discussed the Co. 3 building project and the scope of work given to Comm Staufer by J. Pontieri Engineering and Consulting. The board advised the office staff to contact J. Pontieri Engineering and Consulting to start the process for bid submission for the Co. 3 project.

Comm Buchner- Updated the board on the 800 radio channel project and discussed the use of the CBS tower and recommends against it based on the cost. Is looking into other options. The board agrees with the recommendation.

DISTRICT MANAGERS REPORT

Comm Buchner received a call from Haas Company and advised DM Brewer to inquire with them and their software for vehicles. This software is designed to alert vehicles on the road when emergency response vehicles are approaching. Discussed with the board his findings. Based on lack of accessibility and cost, the board advised the DM to notify this company that we are not interested.

DM contacted Kessel on behalf of Comm Strong to get an estimate on painting the new GI. DM will notify board once we have the estimate.

We received the schedules for the 2026 budget and the 2026 commissioners' election from lawyer Bill Glass.

No update from Terrebonne for the cell tower.

Mike the new part time maintenance worker is doing well.

Gerard is in the process of fixing up 97 for Mike to use during work.

Asked the board for permission to get prices for uniform shirts for Mike, Gerard, Greg, and Rob. Board ok'd.

Asked the board if they still have interest in North Amityville's utility truck for sale. They are no longer interested. DM to notify North Amityville.

Presented Chairman Buchner with the Munistat contract for his signature.

Contacted the Town of Brookhaven regarding permits for the chief's house in relation to proposed storage building. DM was notified by the TOB that the building permit expired on 10/6/23. The district must reopen the permit in order to close it and schedule an inspection before they can continue with the proposed storage building. DM sent documentation to the TOB on 8/19 but he was advised a response could take months.

Gerard cleaned the mechanic's garage.

Notified Comm Handel that the desk phones in the district office are experiencing connection issues.

Comm Handel to contact Adept to assess.

Room Requests:

1. 9/7/25- 9a-5p- Co. 3- Malhotra/McCarrick- Baptism
2. 9/8/25- 1p-10p- Co. 3- Chief Kowalchuk/NYBC- Blood Drive

3. 9/21/25- 10a-2p- Co. 3- SWR Volleyball Team Car Wash

4. 10/24/25- 7-10p- Co.3- Handel- Benevolent meeting

Motion to accept room requests for Malhotra/McCarrick, Chief Kowalchuk/NYBC, and Handel by Comm Buchner, 2nd by Comm Staufer, all in favor. The request from SWR Volleyball Team Car Wash was denied due to no member sponsorship for the event.

The board opened the meeting for questions from the guests in attendance.

Member Walter Birney asked questions in relation to the paid EMS program and the response times to Leisure Glenn. A discussion was held. Chairman Buchner informed Walter that the board recently made some salary and benefit changes for our first responders. This was necessary to remain competitive with the other fire districts who are also hiring paramedics. We hope this will improve recruitment and retention of qualified personnel. Chairman Buchner stated the one particular call that Mr. Birney brought up was the 3rd call in a row that we were handling. We exhausted our paid and volunteer staff and had to mutual aid the call to Ridge. Commissioner Staufer stated that when we cannot fill vacancies with our paid staff, it is the responsibility of the volunteer fire department members to handle the calls. In response to Walter Birney's concerns, Comm Handel offered to attend a meeting at Leisure Glenn to address any questions they have about EMS.

Member Harry McCabe asked if there was a response to his letter. Chairman Buchner told Mr. McCabe that he discussed this issue with him on the phone and as far as the board is concerned, the matter is closed.

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Comm Buchner, 2nd by Comm Staufer, all in favor.

Motion to accept treasurer's warrant by Comm Buchner, 2nd by Comm Staufer, all in favor.

Treasurer Hauser reviewed the 1st draft of the proposed 2026 budget with the BOFC.

A motion was made by Comm Strong to transfer \$250,000 from the district's unassigned fund balance to the apparatus reserve fund, 2nd by Comm Staufer, all in favor.

A motion was made by Comm Buchner to approve a permissive referendum to purchase, outfit, and equip one new 2025 Chevrolet Chief's vehicle not to exceed \$125,000.00, 2nd by Comm Handel, all in favor.

A motion was made by Comm Strong to approve a permissive referendum to purchase, outfit, and equip one new 2025 Chevrolet Fire Police vehicle not to exceed \$125,000.00, 2nd by Comm Buchner, all in favor.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 2331 hours by Comm Buchner, 2nd by Comm Strong, all in favor.

Prepared and submitted by:

Taylor Lattman
Fire District Secretary
Rocky Point Fire District