

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026 WORKSHOP

Meeting called to order at 1832 hours.

Present were: Chairman Strong, VC Staufer, Comm. Buchner, Comm. Handel, DM Brewer, Asst. Chief Bernier, Asst. Chief Kowalchuk and Treasurer Consultant Bob Sick.

CHIEF'S REPORT

A/C Bernier gave report for Chief Martin:

Medical Leaves - add Howard Sedell and A. Delettera to the list. DM advised that Ex.-Capt. Malhotra should be taken off medical. His clearance letter from NDI was just received. 31 requested a letter be sent to Ryan McCarrick advising him that he is past the 45-day mark for medical leave. DM to send letter.

31 advised we have not received any equipment back from dismissed member Rocco Gandiosi. DM to draft letter that a police report will be filed if the equipment is not returned.

Co. 2 member Charles Taormina resigned effective 1/23/26. All equipment returned. Motion to accept resignation in good standing by Comm. Buchner, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF.

31 requested 10 pair of boots. This was tabled until 32 provides current cost.

Submitted a request by Co. 2 member Sarah Lavery for CPR instructor course and book. Total cost is \$227.65. Motion to approve by Comm. Staufer, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF.

31 requested a scanner for Co. 3 bay floor. See DM's report.

Requested six Seek TIC cameras for R4 and E15. Cost \$10,259.40. Discussion followed. Comm. Staufer stated he did not think this is necessary for R4. E15 only needs three. Motion by Comm. Staufer to approve purchase of three for E15 at a cost of 5129.70, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF.

Requested one Demo Diamond cut safety blade for the OV saw on L14 cost \$276.40. Motion to approve by Comm. Buchner, 2nd by Comm. Staufer. AIF.

Asked if BOFC would cover cost of Drone Part 107 exam fee @ \$175 each. Motion to approve \$1050.00 by Comm. Buchner, 2nd by Comm. Staufer. AIF.

31 on behalf of 32 asked if the BOFC would approve unlimited monthly car washes at All Island Carwash in Middle Island for \$35 per month per car (\$420 per car per year = \$1680). Denied. Chiefs get free cars. They can wash them periodically.

Requested three Klein Electrical Voltage test kits @ \$69.99 each. One for each first due rig. Total \$209.97. Motion to approve by Comm. Staufer, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF.

33 requested 38 green ties and 80 pair of white uniform gloves for stock. Cost \$988.80. Tabled. 33 to get more info.

Requested three new RIT packs for R4/L14/E7. Cost \$14,068.38. 31 stated we need to make sure we have RIT qualified people before we purchase the packs. Tabled.

Thanked BOFC for gear cleaning and inspection of gear. Comm. Staufer stated members need to make officers aware of any gear issues that need repair or replacement.

31 asked about St. Patrick's Day Sig 8 money for the companies. Since we no longer have a Fire Police company the BOFC decided to up the amount to \$700 per company. Motion to approve by Comm. Buchner, 2nd by Comm. Staufer. AIF.

31 asked about the board's contribution to the awards for the next dinner. A discussion with our treasurer consultant followed. Motion to approve \$1500 to be given to the department towards the awards by Comm. Handel, 2nd by Comm. Buchner. AIF.

31 advised that Don Epp has been appointed as 1st Lt. at Co. 2 to fill Charles Taormina's spot.

31 asked if the BOFC would approve exploring hosting a Recruit NY for April 18-19, 2026. Tabled until more information is brought to the board.

31 discussed the delay in receiving replacement hose. DM stated all hose requested has been ordered but not received. Comm. Staufer stated there has been a delay of about 16 weeks to get hose. It was decided to order some stock hose. Looking to acquire two 50-foot lengths of 2-inch hose (two red, two white and two blue). Comm. Staufer to get prices.

31 asked if we have a house inspection date? The date will be June 6 starting at Co. 1 at 0900 hours.

31 asked about some open work orders for Co 3. DM advised that the mechanic and maintenance are doing their best to keep up with all work orders and other duties. Some delays are the result of delays with outside vendors.

31 is working on getting a band for St. Patrick's Day parade. More to follow at next meeting.

33 stated PESH will be Feb. 21 at 1000 hours. Another one will be held in May.

Fire Prevention Open House will be Oct 9. Discussed the Fire Prevention trailer. It was previously stated that the on-board computer system does not work. The last estimate to replace or repair was about \$40,000. The board will not spend that. 33 will discuss with Rob about some modifications that could be made in-house.

33 discussed purchasing uniforms. Tabled until prices are obtained.

COMMISSIONERS TO CHIEFS

Comm. Staufer stated the DM signed and submitted the agreement with Language Line for interpreting services. The DM printed an instruction sheet with our client ID, account number and their toll-free contact number. Copies given to all board members and Chief. 31 asked about using I-pads to make the call. Frank W was called in and addressed the board. He will set up the I-pads.

Mar 22 will be HIPAA at Co. 2 at 1000 hours. There will be another class in May. Date TBD.

Heather asked if the board would approve an Active Shooter training on March 18th. Yes. More to follow.

Heather asked if the board would approve a Terrorism Awareness training for EMS on April 29th. Yes. More to follow.

Comm. Staufer discussed brush trucks. 2-1/2 ton chassis are no longer available. We will have to look at a 5-ton. A 5-ton will not fit in Co. 1. The plan is to purchase a 5-ton replacement for B19 and then move 19 to Co. 1 to replace B9.

Comm. Buchner informed the Chief that the new FP13 has arrived. It will take some time before it is in service. It needs gas ring, GPS, insurance, registration. The new Chiefs truck should arrive next week. The same things will be needed for that new vehicle.

Comm Buchner gave an update he received from Andrew of IWT about the cell tower in Shoreham.

We will be putting the same headset that is in B6 into B19. The installation in B6 cost \$6183.48. Comm. Buchner is awaiting a new quote from Andrew for B19. Tabled until quote comes in.

Comm. Strong told the Chiefs that the annual inspection will be May 13 at Co. 2 at 1900 hours. Please remind all members about proper uniforms for the inspection. 31 will handle.

The dinner will be May 16.

Comm. Strong asked 31 if any thought has been given to holding a training on traumatic injuries that can occur while improperly cleaning snow from snowblowers. We have had a lot of snow this season. More to follow.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Comm. Staufer said he completed the disciplinary policy for volunteers. He sent a copy to all. Motion to adopt by Comm. Staufer, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF.

Heather submitted a request to replace the traction splint on A8. Cost 1799.60. Motion to approve by Comm. Staufer, 2nd by Comm. Buchner.

Heather requested monthly meds from Hammer. Cost \$3604.95. Motion to approve by Comm. Staufer, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF.

Heather requested a Lucas for the district ambulance. Cost \$27,892.30. Motion to approve by Comm. Staufer, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF

Heather requested a Patient Simulator Mannequin for EMS training for paid staff and volunteers. Two quotes submitted: Gaumard 33,879.82 and Elevate Health \$61,964.70. Only two vendors submitted quotes. Motion to approve Gaumard by Comm. Staufer, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF.

Requested that the board approve paying our responders for two hours to attend the Active Shooter drill and the Terrorism Awareness class. Motion by Comm. Staufer, 2nd by Comm. Buchner. AIF.

Comm. Staufer will be drafting a policy on response to active shooters. We should look into purchasing Ballistic gear. 31 asked about guidelines and minimum requirements to participate in this type of response. More to follow.

Comm. Staufer said the BOFC should consider purchasing the utility truck from North Amityville to replace 29 and use as a Special Ops truck. The last asking price was \$35,000. Comm. Staufer to look into this. More to follow.

Comm. Staufer looking at hiring extra responder coverage for the St. Patrick's parade. 31 would like two paid crews and one vollie crew. More to follow.

Comm. Staufer said everyone who attends the installation dinner will have an assigned seat. You can still make requests for group seating. If you do not RSVP to the dinner you will not be permitted to attend. We should consider having an extended cocktail hour all night rather than the full sit-down dinner during the "off" year. Will discuss at the next meeting with 30. More to follow. The 2027 dinner will be at Giorgio's.

Comm. Staufer discussed the new "floating" holiday for Juneteenth. Would like to rescind the floater and make employees take the holiday on whatever day that holiday falls. Motion to rescind the floater by Comm Staufer, 2nd by Comm Handel. AIF.

Comm Handel asked about paving Co. 3. Comm. Staufer to contact Jason Pontieri for a quote.

TREASURERS REPORT

Consultant Bob Sick gave the report for Michelle who is out of the country. He updated everyone on the transition. He's been working with the DM on logins, QuickBooks, NYS Retirement, Deferred Comp and positive pay. Comm. Strong asked about a printed Treasurers report. Bob stated he and Michelle will be working to get it soon, hopefully by the next meeting.

Motion to pay the bills by Comm. Buchner, 2nd by Comm. Staufer. AIF.

DISTRICT MANAGERS REPORT

Informed the board that the problem with the Red Alert app freezing up may have been caused by a lack of re-booting the server. Island Tech used to re-boot monthly. Adept hasn't re-booted since the changeover. Frank came in to address the board about this and said he contacted Adept and requested they re-boot the server. Adept did that and will continue to re-boot every 3 months.

Discussed the letter that the Chief requested for drone use. Our attorney did not feel comfortable drafting this letter. Chairman Strong gave permission to DM to draft a letter on our letterhead. He signed it and turned it over to 31.

DM advised that he received a letter that the fire alarm has been disconnected at RP Funeral Home. The DM stated he looked into this and learned it has been sold to Branch Funeral Homes. Comm Buchner asked the DM to contact the TOB FM's office to report that there is no active alarm at this time. Language Line instruction handout presented to all.

DM reported that NDI cleared Ex-Capt. Malhotra to return to Class A status.

Maria Hess is on medical effective 2/11.

At the request of 30, DM called NDI to check on status of Tim Draskin. He told his officers his doctor sent something to NDI clearing him as a Class A. Nothing has been received as of yet. DM will contact NDI tomorrow.

DM returned several membership applications to 31 due to missing or expired drivers licenses.

List of 2026 conferences compiled and distributed.

DM asked about a printout from Conway Shields. Does anyone know what this is about? 31 stated possibly a shield for new Lt. Epp. DM will check tomorrow.

DM sent letter to City MD requesting a meeting to discuss calls at the facility as per the BOFC. No response as of today.

Discussed drone reimbursement for members.

The Ladder App renewal has been signed and sent in on 2/3/26.

Paperwork received for tail pipe mishap on E7.

Distributed memo from FRES Comm Sunderman about the state of volunteer service and recruiting in Suffolk.

Received a quote to upgrade radio speaker system in Co 3. Cost \$23,299.05. Board tabled due to cost. Comm. Staufer stated some items are not needed. He will contact IWT to discuss. More to follow.

Comm. Buchner asked about the alarm system in the district storage closet. It appears to be in trouble mode. DM stated Rob is aware and contacted Diamond Security. He learned that the alarm to the Chiefs building had been disconnected. Diamond will submit a quote for repair.

We need two new antennas for APX8000 at a cost of \$218.24. Motion to approve by Comm. Buchner, 2nd by Comm. Staufer. AIF.

New FP 13 arrived. List of items required to be completed will be addressed as time permits.

Taylor should be back to the office on March 11.

Lund Valve Testing will be here on March 5.

Brought up 2026 quote for lawn fertilization for the district. Cost \$1714.00. Motion to approve by Comm. Buchner, 2nd by Comm. Handel. AIF.

Received a PILOT check from TOB for the solar project in the amount of \$29,298.46. Forwarded to the treasurer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were four requests for executive session. One from Comm. Staufer to discuss employee benefits. One from Comm. Handel to discuss a personnel issue. One from the DM to discuss a pending lease contract. One from the DM to discuss an employee retirement issue. Motion to enter into Executive session at 2110 by Comm Strong, 2nd by Comm. Staufer. AIF.

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 2150 hours by Comm Strong, 2nd by Comm Staufer. AIF.

There was one room request from the Benevolent for Co 3 on April 24 between 1800 and 2200 hours. Motion to approve by Comm. Handel, 2nd by Comm. Buchner. AIF.

The next meeting will be February 24, 2026.

Motion to adjourn at 2200 hours by Comm. Buchner, 2nd by Comm. Staufer. AIF.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David L. Brewer
Fire District Manager