

**ORCHARD PARK BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orchard Park Fire District was held on March 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the meeting room of the District Offices, 4222 S. Taylor Road. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gill and began with the pledge to the flag.

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	Gregory Gill	Dist. Chief:	Jay Knavel
Commissioner:	Richard Mrugalski	Treasurer:	Nick Enser
Commissioner:	Mark Szczepanik	Secretary:	Roberta Buczkowski
Commissioner:	Bob Benning		

**Fire Company Officers Present:**

Orchard Park Chief: Rob Germano  
Windom Chief: Mike Carey  
Hillcrest Chief: Ron Hendershot

**Others Present:**

Dave Stromecki, Brown & Stromecki Insurance	Administrator, Monica Thielmann
Larry Brand, Hillcrest	Bob Baun, Windom
Jacob Huff, Windom	Jim Breitwiser, Windom
Chet Covers, Windom	Robert Baun, Windom

**Approval of Minutes of the Meeting:**

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Mrugalski that the minutes of the February meeting be approved. All in favor; motion carried.

**Public Meeting on the adoption of the resolution regarding the authorizing of the exemption for Property Tax.**

Chairman Gill read the resolution regarding the authorizing of the exemption for property tax which is recorded below.

Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning to authorize the Exemption for property tax.

**Comments from the floor (Public):**

No one spoke.

**Communications and Action on Same:**

1. Letter from Windom Fire Company re: use of Windom Hall April 21, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik regarding same. All in favor; motion carried.
2. Letter from Windom Fire Company re: use of Windom Hall April 21, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik regarding same. All in favor; motion carried



IT Manager	7
Maintenance	8
Mechanic	8
Secretary	6
Treasurer	6

**District Chief Jay Knavel:**

1. Monthly reports read. Attached to file copy

**Orchard Park Chief, Rob Germano:**

No report

**Windom Chief, Michael Carey:**

1. Windom will have two (2) Standbys. Would like the Board to pay for the food and allow the sheriffs to use Windom Hall for these events. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Mrugalski to approve the use of Windom by the EC Sheriffs and to pay for the food for these standbys. All in favor; motion carried.

**Hillcrest Chief, Ron Hendershot:**

No report

**NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND REMOVALS:**

**\*\*\*Orchard Park\*\*\***

None

**\*\*\*Hillcrest\*\*\***

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Mrugalski to accept Courtney Martin to the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Mrugalski to accept James Hitt to the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

**\*\*\*Windom\*\*\***

None

**Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik to create an investigative committee for membership for the Jr. Firefighters. This committee will consist of:**

- One (1) Commissioner
- District Chief
- three (3) Chief Officers (one from each company)
- Jr Firefighter Leader.

**All in favor; motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

**Commissioner Mrugalski:**

1. Working on the Chief's vehicle policy. Will send out when done.
2. The closeout for Orchard Park Central is recorded below.

3. Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning to go out to bid the landscaping for OP Central and Hillcrest due to the former landscape company not fulfilling the contract. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Working with Saia upgrading the repeaters and adding two (2) new ones.
5. The tax exempt forms and letter were submitted to the Assessor's Office by the deadline.

**Commissioner Szczepanik:**

1. Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Benning to Approve the resolution regarding the 2023 LOSAP. All in favor; motion carried.  
The resolution is recorded below:

**Commissioner Benning:**

No report

**Chairman Gill:**

No report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning to approve WellNow for the physicals required by the District. All in favor; motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS AND ACTION ON THE SAME:**

Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning that the bills be paid as presented for a total of \$154,944.11. All in favor; motion carried.

**Motions Made:**

**Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Benning to adopt the resolution for the standard workdays as required by New York State Retirement. All in favor; motion carried.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik to create an investigative committee for membership for the Jr. Firefighters. This committee will consist of:**

- One (1) Commissioner
- District Chief
- three (3) Chief Officers (one from each company)
- Jr Firefighter Leader.

**All in favor; motion carried.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning to approve WellNow for the physicals required by the District. All in favor; motion carried.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Benning to Approve the resolution regarding the 2023 LOSAP. All in favor; motion carried.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Mrugalski, seconded by Commissioner Benning to authorize the Exemption for property tax.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business to come before this Board, motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik that the meeting be adjourned. All in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:26PM

Respectfully submitted, Roberta Buczkowski, Secretary

DRAFT

Orchard Park Fire District  
 Orchard Park Fire Company Remodeling  
 30 School Street

		<b>Change Percentage of Original Contract</b>
<b>General Contractor – Concept Corp.</b>		
Original Contract Amount	\$2,238,800.00	-0.68%
Total Change Orders	(\$15,204.79)	
Total for Electrical Contract	<b>\$2,223,595.21</b>	

<b>Electrical Contractor – IPL Industrial Power &amp; Lighting</b>		
Original Contract Amount	\$818,400.00	2.03%
Total Change Orders	\$16,619.54	
Total for Electrical Contract	<b>\$835,019.54</b>	

<b>Plumbing Contractor – MLP Plumbing Corp.</b>		
Original Contract Amount	\$679,000.00	9.75%
Total Change Orders	\$66,218.88	
Total for Electrical Contract	<b>\$745,218.88</b>	

<b>Mechanical Contractor – MLP Plumbing &amp; Mechanical, Inc.</b>		
Original Contract Amount	\$1,133,600.00	0.39%
Total Change Orders	\$4,456.00	
Total for Electrical Contract	<b>\$1,138,056.00</b>	

<b>Total Contract Amount without Change Orders</b>	<b>\$4,869,800.00</b>
<b>Total Amount of Change Orders for All Primes</b>	<b>\$72,089.63</b>
<b>Total Contract Amount with Change Order Added</b>	<b>\$4,941,889.63</b>

Storage Trailers	\$3,716.00
Field Trailer	\$7,190.00
Fontanases Folts Aubrecht Ernst Architects	\$50,017.01
Buffalo Engineering Payment for Extra Work Design	\$10,450.00
Stohl Environmental (Asbestos Monitoring & Testing)	\$14,510.00
Encorus Group (Concrete Testing)	\$296.00

<b>Total Architect, Testing and Trailers</b>	<b>\$86,179.01</b>
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<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$5,028,068.64</b>
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**Orchard Park Fire District**  
**Resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners**

*In the matter of approving the 2023 certified points*

**WHEREAS**, the Fire District is the sponsor of a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) on behalf of the Orchard Park Fire Department in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law (GML);

**WHEREAS**, as required by GML §219-a(2)(c), the Orchard Park Fire Department has submitted the attached list, certified under oath, of active members of the Fire Department, indicating those volunteers who earn at least fifty (50) points during 2023 to qualify for service credit;

**WHEREAS**, the certification made by the Fire Department includes a statement that the points recorded on the attached list have been tabulated in accordance with the Point System adopted by the Fire District to be in effect during calendar year 2023, and the best of the knowledge of the Fire Department, is a true and accurate reflection of the activities performed by the active members;

**WHEREAS**, GML § 219-a(2)(d) requires the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) to review and approve the attached list then return it to the Fire Department to be posted for thirty (30) days; and

**WHEREAS**, the board has completed its review of the attached list of volunteer firefighters of the Orchard Park Fire Department and the points earned by these firefighters during calendar year 2023; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Fire Commissioners approves the attached list of volunteer firefighters of the Orchard Park Fire Department and the points earned by these firefighters during calendar year 2023; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this adopted resolution and the attached list shall be returned to the Fire Department for posting for a minimum of thirty (30) days.

## **RESOLUTION TO AUTHORZE EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY TAX**

Real Property Tax Law §466-a authorizes the Orchard Park Fire District to partially exempt up to 10% of the assessed value of the residence of a volunteer firefighter.

After a public hearing, the Orchard Park Fire District may adopt a Resolution authorizing the exemption.

The exemption is available only to members of the District who have been certified as being enrolled members for a minimum of two years.

An enrolled member who as accrued more than 20 years of active service may be granted an exemption for the remainder of their life as long as their primary residence is located within the Orchard Park Fire District.

The exemption may be continued or reinstated for the un-remarried spouse of a member killed in the line of duty who had been a member for at five years and was receiving the exemption prior to death.

The exemption may be continued or reinstated for the un-remarried spouse of a member who accrued at least 20 years of active service and was receiving the exemption prior to death. The exemption may be granted only to applicants who reside in the Village or Town served by the Orchard park Fire District.

The exemption is only available for the applicant's primary residence and only for property exclusively used for residential purposes.

The District shall compile a list of the eligible members and submit it to the local assessor by the taxable statue date.

On the motion by Commissioner Mrugalski and seconded by Commissioner Benning the motion to authorize the exemption for property tax is hereby approved subject to a public hearing posted in the District's official newspaper scheduled for the next regular meeting of the Orchard Park Fire District on March 12, 2024 at 7:00pm at 4222 South Taylor Road, Orchard Park, NY