

**ORCHARD PARK BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 MEETING**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orchard Park Fire District was held on September 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the meeting room of the District Offices, 4222 S. Taylor Road. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wierzbowski and began with the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call:

Chairman:	Frank Wierzbowski	Dist. Chief:	Jay Knavel
		Treasurer:	Nick Enser
Commissioner:	Robert Benning	Attorney:	Michael Chelus
Commissioner:	Edmund Jensen Jr.	Secretary:	Roberta Buczkowski
Commissioner:	Mark Szczepanik	Administrator:	Monica Theilmann

Fire Company Officers Present:

Orchard Park Chief: Rob Germano
Windom Chief: Jacob Leckle
Hillcrest Chief: Ron Hendershot

Others Present:

Karl Blombeck, Hillcrest
Eric Knavel, EMS
Greg Bienias, EMS

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting:

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik that the minutes of the August 11, 2026 meeting be approved. All in favor; motion carried.

Comments from the floor (Public):

None

Communications and Action on Same:

1. Application for Orchard Park
2. Resignation from Orchard Park
3. Resignation from Orchard Park

Treasurer's Report:

1. The 2% funds are here and will be dispersed soon.

District Chief Jay Knavel:

1. Monthly reports read.
2. Drills for the month will be done by each company
3. Fire Officer 1 in progress
4. The ladder testing was completed with all passing.
5. Officer qualifications will remain the same as last year.

EMS Manager Eric Knavel:

1. Monthly reports read.

Orchard Park Chief, Rob Germano:

1. The Orchard Park Police will be conducting a child safety seat check on September 30 at Central.

Windom Chief, Jacob Leckle:

1. Windom is in need of new keys.

Hillcrest Chief, Ron Hendershot:

No report

NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND REMOVALS:

*****Orchard Park*****

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to accept Nicholas Miller to the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Benning to remove Allyson Mills from the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to remove Robert Sheehan from the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried

*****Hillcrest*****

None

*****Windom*****

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to remove Kimberly Gretka from the District Rolls. All in favor; motion carried

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Benning:

1. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik to move Kim Pollick from part-time to seasonal part-time to be able to complete the reports needed. All in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Jensen:

1. Resolution to purchase property at 3719 Abbott Road is as follows:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ORCHAD PARK FIRE DISTRICT, TOWN OF ORCHARD PARK, ERIE COUNTY NEW YORK, TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3719 ABBOTT ROA, ORCHARD PARK, NEW YORK

ON MOTION DULY MADE by Commissioner Benning, and seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik on

Tuesday September 8 2026, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orchard Park Fire District in the Town of Orchard Park, Erie County, New York as Follows:

Section 1. That the Windom Volunteer Fire Company is in need of new facilities to provide Services for the residents of the Fire District.

Section 2. That the Board of Fire Commissioners has signed a contract to purchase the real property

Park, New York for \$1,150,000.00.

unrestricted funds of the Fire District.

to a permissive referendum with the Secretary being

Resolution in the *Orchard Park Bee*, the official

District.

until 30 days after adoption of the Resolution.

Located at 3719 Abbott Road, Orchard

Section 3. That the purchase will be from

Section 4. That this Resolution is adopted subject

Authorized to publish a Notice of this

Newspaper of the Orchard Park Fire

Section 5. That this Resolution shall not take effect

Commissioner Szczepanik:

1. Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Benning to purchase a 2027 Ford Truck for \$49,266.13 State Bid price. All in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Wierzbowski:

No report

Attorney Chelus:

1. Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the proposed 2027 budget for the Orchard Park Fire District. All in favor; motion carried.
2. Motion made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Benning that the public meeting for the proposed budget will be October 13, 2026 at 6:30. All in favor; motion carried.
3. Motion made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Benning for the Secretary to advertise the Budget meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PRESENTATION OF BILLS AND ACTION ON THE SAME:

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Jensen that the bills be paid as presented for a total of \$167,105.00 All in favor; motion carried.

Motions Made:

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Jensen to approve the proposed 2027 budget for the Orchard Park Fire District. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Benning that the public meeting for the proposed budget will be October 13, 2026 at 6:30. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Benning for the Secretary to advertise the Budget meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Szczepanik, seconded by Commissioner Benning to purchase a 2027 Ford Truck for \$49,266.13 State Bid price. All in favor; motion carried.

ON MOTION DULY MADE by Commissioner Benning, and seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik on Tuesday September 8 2026, BE IT RESOLOVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orchard Park Fire District in the Town of Orchard Park, Erie County, New York

Motion made by Commissioner Benning, seconded by Commissioner Szczepanik to move Kim Pollick from part-time to seasonal part-time to be able to complete the reports needed. All in favor; motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

Meeting adjourned PM

Respectfully submitted, Roberta Buczkowski, Secretary