

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners for December 14, 2005

Chairman McCarthy convened the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners at 7:30p.m. with a moment of silence for members of the Armed Services and deceased officers of the Department.

In attendance were: Chairman McCarthy; Comrs. Nethercott, Buonassisi, Nicoletti and Hoffarth; Chief Pille; Financial Consultant Butler, Deputy Treasurer Matranga and Secretary/Treasurer Deegan.

It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Hoffarth/Nicolteei to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2005 regular monthly meeting as read with the following changes: page three, paragraph one should read, ..."Chief Pille reported 15 and 17 Skyline Drive have applications for Knox boxes" and page three, paragraph four should read, ..."Comr. Hoffarth reported AAA Emergency has completed..."

Correspondence: 1.) A letter from the District Secretary reporting the results of the Chief and Assistant Chief's nominations as 10 votes for Chief Pille and 7 votes for Assistant Chief King; 2.) A letter from Valhalla Fire Company No. 1 reporting the company will request the resignation of Mustafa Aboul-Saud upon his return from school on December 17, 2005; 3.) A letter of support from the Valhalla Fire Company No.1 for the appointments of Chief Pille and Assistant Chief King; 4.) A letter of support from the Independent Fire Company for the appointment of Chief Pille and Assistant Chief King.; 5.) A letter, from the Valhalla Fire Company No. 1, with an attached physical form from Family Medical and arson check reporting Fire Squad member Kirk A. Baker, II's desire to become an interior firefighter upon reaching his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; 6.) A letter of resignation in good standing for FS Christopher Fox from the Valhalla Fire Company No. 1; 7.) A letter of resignation in good standing for FS Carl Nelson from the Valhalla Fire Company No. 1; 8.) A letter of resignation in good standing for FF Michael Cervone; 9.) A letter from Valhalla Fire Company No. 1 report receipt of all firematic equipment from John Bertrand; 10.) A letter of resignation in good standing for Robert Barletta from the Valhalla Fire Company No. 1;

District Secretary reported the results of the annual District Annual Election to the Board as follows: 24 votes were cast in favor of the Service Award Program Post Entitlement referendum and one vote against the Service Award Program Post Entitlement and 16 votes were cast for Rocco Buonassisi for a five year term as Commissioner of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Nethercott/Buonassisi to accept as read Financial Consultant Butler's report, that bills submitted for payment be approved and transfers executed. MC.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Balance Forward	\$3,121.25
Deposits	\$12,093.00
Transfers (MMKT)	\$40,000.00
Vouchers	\$52,889.71
Closing Balance	\$2,324.54

**STATUS OF ACCOUNTS:**

Regular Checking	\$2,324.54
Fire District Money Market	\$69,655.87
Fire District CTF. of Deposit	\$85,000.00
Capital Reserve Money Market	\$521,785.63
Capital Reserve CTF. of Deposit	\$375,000.00
Building Reserve Money Market	\$2,275.37
Building Reserve CTF. of Deposit	\$60,151.26
Repair Reserve Money market	\$10,179.18
Repair Reserve CTF. of Deposit	<u>\$11,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,137,371.85

**CHECKS:**

3856	BRIAN GUSKI	\$195.00
3857	GRAYROCK FLORIST	\$60.00
3858	ROBERT DISTASIO	\$35.00
3859	VERIZON	\$15.28
3860	US POSTAL SERVICE	\$200.00
3861	VALHALLA FIRE CO. NO. 1	\$8,102.00
3862	UTICA NATIONAL INS. GROUP	\$3,041.25
3863	THE JOURNAL NEWS	\$127.16
3864	XEROX CORPORATION	\$199.65
3865	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$65.24
3866	KRISTEN CIANCIO	\$873.03
3867	NANCY R. SOHN	\$5,000.00
3868	TRILEX	\$369.50
3869	ANTHONY CIANCIO	\$40.49
3870	CABLEVISION	\$0.45
3871	MICHAEL DEEGAN	\$558.20
3872	NEXTEL COMMUNICATIONS	\$302.55
3873	ALPINE SOFTWARE	\$1,808.87
3874	EXXON/MOBIL	\$443.96
3875	PERFECT COMPUTER	\$888.00
3876	CAMPBELL SUPPLY CO.	\$515.19
3877	MICHAEL PALMERINI	\$70.00
3878	NYS DEPT. OF TRANS.	\$100.00
3879	STEVEN LEDERER	\$50.00
3880	DAVID DIPRINZIO	\$50.00
3881	SHELL OIL CO.	\$12.50
3882	CHARLES GROENWEGEN	\$35.00
3883	DEAN A. HUSZAR	\$247.00
3884	INDEPENDENT FIRE CO.	\$7,802.00
3885	ANTHONY MATRANGA	\$56.95
3886	HUMMEL & BUTLER, CPA'S	\$465.22
3887	DECKER TOOL & EQUIP.	\$99.90
3888	EBEN TURNURE	\$350.00
3889	AMERICAN EXPRESS	921.46
3890	JOSEPH BUONASSISI	\$390.00
3891	CON EDISON	\$577.76
3892	RALPH NICOLETTI	\$82.45
3893	FAMILY MEDICAL CARE, PC	\$10,647.00
3894	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	\$269.95
3895	MICHAEL G. GRIECO	\$893.00
3896	CHARLES STOTZ, INC.	\$94.45
3897	AAA EMERGENCY	\$6,653.19
3898	CARD MEMBER SERVICE	\$29.55
3899	VERIZON	\$138.91
3900	KENNETH HOFFARTH	<u>\$12.60</u>
	<b>TOTAL (45)</b>	<b>\$52,889.71</b>

**TRANSFERS:**

**FROM:** Money Market #6700184941  
**TO:** Checking #670-0672326 \$40,000.00

**FROM:** Investors Cert. #677-5663063  
**TO:** Investor's Choice #670-0184941 \$85,000.00

**FROM:** Investor's Cert. #677-5720806  
**TO:** Investor's Choice #670-0184895 \$25,000.00

**FROM:** Investor's Cert. #677-5586654  
**TO:** Investor's Choice #670-0185042 \$10,000.00

FROM: Investor's Cert. #677-5586700  
TO: Investor's Choice #670-0185042 \$10,000.00

FROM: Investor's Choice #670-0185042  
TO: CTF of Deposit Building Reserve \$20,000.00

FROM: Investor's Cert. #677-5587413  
TO: Investor's Choice #670-0184887 \$11,000.00

FROM: Investor's Choice #670-0184887  
TO: CTF of Deposit Repair Reserve \$10,000.00

It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Hoffarth/Nicoletti to accept Chief Pille's December 2005 report as read. Activity report for November 2005: 31 Alarms for 592 man hrs.; 6 Dept. Drills for 221 man hrs.; 10 Company Drills for 299 man hrs.; 2 Meetings for 101 man hrs.; 5 Trainings for 56 man hrs.; 4 Misc. for 13 man hrs.; Total: 1,282 man hours. Chief Pille congratulated Comr. Buonassisi on his re-election as Commissioner. Chief Pille reported Assistant Chief King has participated in the planning, along with Mt. Pleasant Police, for a tabletop emergency drill of the failure of the Kensico Dam. Chief Pille reported he and Assistant Chief King have conducted a walk through of the newly renovated Volunteers of America County Homeless Shelter on the grounds of the Grasslands Reservation. Chief Pille will conduct a walk through with the officers in early 2006. Chief Pille reported the Department has been invited to participate in a haz-mat de-con drill with the Hawthorne FD in conjunction with the County's Office of Emergency Management. Chief Pille reported the Elmsford Seminar will be held on Saturday, 1/14/06 and both Captains have been informed that only a pre-paid voucher can be used and members will not be reimbursed if their name is not on the voucher. Chief Pille reported that the Valhalla Fire Company did an excellent job at demonstrating a new fire suppression system at the County's Fire Training Center and received several sample containers for their efforts. Chief Pille reported the 6 cases of the candy canes used during the Santa visits were donated by Berger Hardware of Hawthorne. Chief Pille reported Lt. Michael Fox is registered for two courses, Introduction to Fire Officer and Fire Officer I. Chief Pille will host the December 18, 2005 meeting of the Mt. Pleasant Chiefs' Association. Chief Pille has received site plans for the new UV plant on the Grasslands Reservation. Chief Pille thanked Comr. Hoffarth and District Secretary Deegan for posting the Santa visits on line at the Department/District's new website [www.valhallafd.org](http://www.valhallafd.org). Chief Pille reiterated the expectation that all FIT tests must be completed by 12/31/05 and FIT tests are being conducted on Wednesday's during December. Chief Pille reported members attended the wake of Fr. Chip O'Neils' mother. Comr. Hoffarth recommended the Department guidelines for conducting a wake be implemented for consistency. Chief Pille reported there was a structure fire 8-10 Park Avenue at which TL-49 sustained damage. Chief Pille indicated a very good turnout of personnel from the Department and mutual aid companies for the fire. Safety Officer Ciancio is conducting an investigation and preparing the supplemental report to submit to Comr. Nicoletti about the TL-49 accident. Comr. McCarthy congratulated Chief Pille on the good operations at the fire scene.

Comr. Hoffarth reported the District has received the County's mobile and portable radio contract. Comr. Hoffarth reported the new District/Department website is up and running and encouraged all to visit the site at [www.valhallafd.org](http://www.valhallafd.org). Comr. Hoffarth reported he is cautiously optimistic about the 2005 and 2006 Grasslands' contract with the County. Comr. Hoffarth reported that through the intercession of Sue Swanson, who has met with legislators and lobbied on the District's behalf, there is hope we will receive funding through the County budgets. Comr. Hoffarth reminded the Board that limited expenditures should take place during the next several months until we receive the Town fire taxes.

Comr. Nicoletti reported a dividend check has been issued in the amount of \$11,814.30 from our insurance carrier to the District.

Comr. Nethercott reported he has been working along with the District's computer technical support to remove a virus, which has infected the District computer and software. Comr. Nethercott reported an appointment has been made with Captain John Novohradsky of the County's 60 Control for a Sun Pro tutorial. After a brief discussion about where the TL-49 door painting should be done as well as the body work, Comr. Buonassisi will get an initial estimate from Vacteck and discuss it with Comr. Nethercott before Comr. Nethercott decides where to have the work done.

Comr. McCarthy reported that while the generator on Engine 84 has been repaired, several other issues remain unresolved. Comr. McCarthy remains dissatisfied with the customer service of Campbell Supply Company, Inc. Comr. McCarthy reported a length of hose was lost at the recent fire at 8-10 Park Avenue. Comr. McCarthy reported he is holding off until mid-February his trip for the inspection of the new Engine 82.

Comr. Hoffarth asked Chief Pille to update the certified Cascade list. Responding to Comr. Hoffarth's question, Chief Pille indicated state reports are complete through November 2005. Chief Pille reported he has not heard or received any update on the plans for construction from Ron Rose on Grasslands Road. Chief Pille responded to a question by Comr. Hoffarth by indicating training on the two radiation meters will be held during the winter months during an inside drill. Comr. Hoffarth reported he has yet to receive July and August 2005 yellow copies of the attendance sign in sheets from Valhalla Fire Company No. 1. Comr. Hoffarth indicated a letter should be sent to the Independent Fire Company informing them of the responsibility to return all District/ Department equipment from Eric Lederer. Comr. Hoffarth reported to date, FF E. Lederer has not submitted all equipment.

Comr. Hoffarth suggested and it was agreed to conduct a workshop session of the Board on 1/9/06 at 7:30p.m. at 330 Columbus Avenue. Comr. Hoffarth reported the next Quad District meeting will be held on 1/23/06 at the Thornwood Firehouse at 7:30p.m. Comr. Hoffarth reported the next Westchester County Association of Fire District's meeting will be held on 1/25/06 in Valhalla at 7:30p.m. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Comr. McCarthy will investigate the availability of having the Department Annual Brunch on Sunday, 2/12/06.

It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Hoffarth/Nicoletti to execute a contract with Westchester County for the installation of the new Trunk Radio System. MC.

It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Hoffarth/Nethercott to comply with U.S. Internal Revenue Service guidelines and adjust the travel reimbursement for the District from forty-eight and one half cents per mile to forty-four and one half cents per mile. MC.

It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Hoffarth/Nethercott to accept the resignations of ex-Chief John Bertrand and FF Robert Barletta in good standing. MC.

It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Hoffarth/Nethercott to adopt Resolution 38. MC.

#### Resolution 38

## **Transition Policy- Junior Corps Members Adopted December 14, 2005**

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT IT IS THE WISH AND DESIRE OF THE board of Fire Commissioners to establish a transitional process for a fire squad member to become and active interior firefighter. The Valhalla Fire Squad was created to train potential member who are 16 and 17 years old to become interior firefighters upon reaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. There is a need to provide and appropriate transition process for a fire squad member to become an active firefighter upon reaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The following policy will outline this process:

1. TWO months prior to the fire squad member's eighteenth birthday, the Captain of the Fire Company will submit a written recommendation to the Board of Fire Commissioners as to whether the fire squad member deserves to move up to senior status.

2. The fire squad member must have completed a physical examination by Family Medical Care within the calendar year prior to the Board's consideration of the Captain's recommendation.
3. The fire squad member must have completed the in-house training program and completed the Firefighter I training program to be eligible for the Board to consider the application to senior status.
4. The member's original application to the fire squad will suffice for membership as a senior member. No additional documentation is needed. However, the Captain should submit a copy of the applicant's driver's license with the Captain's letter of recommendation.
5. Upon receipt of the Captain's letter, the Board of Fire Commissioners will vote at its next regular monthly meeting to transfer a fire squad member reaching his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, to senior status. If the Board of Fire Commissioners does not receive a letter of recommendation from the Captain prior to the fire squad member's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the member will be automatically dropped from the fire squad membership at the next Board's monthly meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above process be adopted to establish the transitional process for a fire squad member to become an active interior firefighter.

This motion was made by Comr. Hoffarth, seconded by Comr. Nethercott, with the following Commissioners voting in the affirmative: Buonassisi, Hoffarth, Nethercott, Nicoletti & McCarthy.

This resolution was adopted at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners Valhalla Fire District held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2005.

**It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Nethercott/Nicoletti to accept the resignation in good standing of FF Michael Cervone. MC.**

**It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Nicoletti/Nethercott to accept the resignations in good standing of FS Christopher Fox and FS Carl Nelson. MC.**

**It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Nethercott/Nicoletti to invoke Resolution 38 for Kirk A. Baker II. MC.**

**It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Hoffarth.Nethercott to authorize two members of the Valhalla Fire Company No. 1 Truck Committee to visit at District expense, the factory to inspect the new Engine 82. MC.**

**It was moved on a motion made by Comr. Hoffarth/Nicoletti to accept the Department nomination recommendations and appoint Gregory Pille Chief of the Department and Roger King as Assistant Chief of the Department for 2006. MC. Chief Pille was sworn in by Chairman McCarthy.**

**Deputy Treasurer Matranga recognized the efforts of Comr. Hoffarth and District Secretary Deegan in assisting Sue Swanson in lobbying for a satisfactory resolution to the Grassland contracts.**

**FF Odieffero asked members of the Board several important questions and expressed concerns regarding the Service Award Program's reporting mechanism, administrators fees and oversight.**

**Comr Hoffarth, Comr. Nethercott and Consultant Butler answered his questions and it was decided a statement will be issued to all members along with the annual Service Award Program report and a meeting will be arranged to discuss the program with the membership.**

**With no other business to come before the Board, it was moved on a motion made by Comr. Nethercott/Buonassisi to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Michael J. Deegan,  
District Secretary**