

**CALEDONIA FIRE DISTRICT
October 20, 2020**

MINUTES

Present: Fire Commissioners Jim Dutton, Ron Beach Jr., Don Cook, Mark Schroeder, and Mike Beavers

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Sue Carson, Chief RJ Kantowski, Andrew Carpino, Chris Carpino, Chris Beach, Kevin Hammond, and Paul Sherlock.

The public hearing for the proposed 2021 budget was called to order by Chairman Jim Dutton at 6:30 pm. All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Dutton requested the roll be called by the Secretary with attendance reflected in the minutes.

**CALEDONIA FIRE DISTRICT
BUDGET HEARING AND PROCESS**

- A. ROLL CALL
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- C. PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET

I THE CHAIRMAN READS THE FOLLOWING NOTICE:

1. This is the public hearing regarding the 2021 proposed budget. In accordance with New York State Town Law, all Fire Districts must, prior to the adoption of their budget, hold a public hearing on their budget. Their budget hearing must be held in such a manner to maximize participation in the budget process. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the contents of the budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners in accordance with legal requirements has adopted their proposed budget on the 15th day of September 2020.
2. The Secretary of the Fire District has filed with this District an affidavit
 - i. Stating the public notice of this public hearing was published or posted at least once at least five (5) days before the date specified for the hearing in
 1. The Official Newspaper of the Fire District.
 2. The Official signboards of the Town of Caledonia
 3. On the Fire District website
 4. On the Town of Caledonia website

3. The Notice of Public Hearing specified the time and date when and the place where this Public Hearing would be held.
4. The Fire District Secretary also made available for inspection, at least five days before the public hearing, by any interested person during the Town of Caledonia Clerk's hours copies of the proposed budget.
5. The purpose of this public hearing is to allow members of the public to make comments on the budget. Any person may be heard in favor of, or against, the preliminary budget or any item in it. Please note that this is only a proposed budget until the Board of Fire Commissioners adopts the final budget.
6. Prior to the public comment portion of this budget hearing, we will hear from the Fire District Treasurer who will make a brief presentation about the preliminary budget to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are present. The Fire District Treasurer will be asked to submit the proposed budget to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are here this evening.

ii THE TREASURER PRESENTS THE PROPOSED BUDGET

- a. During this period the Treasurer should make a brief summary of the proposed budget.
- b. The Treasurer should not answer specific questions during this time so not to make this a question and answer session.

iii THE CHAIRMAN NOW STATES

The public comment period begins. I will now ask any person(s) present wishing to be heard on this proposed budget in favor of, or against, the proposed budget or any item in it to please raise your hand. I request that if you wish to address the Board on the proposed budget. When recognized, please state your name and address for the record. Please limit your comments to five (5) minutes. Please direct all your questions to the Board or the Treasurer. This is not a question and answer session. Your question will not be answered when asked. The Board is looking for your opinion on the budget or any part of it, whether favorable or not. Please tell us what you are in favor of regarding this budget or what you are against. You may ask questions, but this Board and the treasurer will not answer any questions, until the conclusion of the public comment period.

- c. No comments were made by the guests.

iv CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING

- a. The Chairman now states: "The public comments period this annual budget hearing has now concluded. The Board of Fire Commissioners is now allowed to ask questions.
 - i The members of the Board of Fire Commissioners now ask questions.
 - ii The Treasurer or the Chairman, if able to do so, address the issues raised during the public comments period.

At 6:35 pm the regular meeting was opened.

The budget hearing was held open while the regular meeting was running concurrently.

Paul Sherlock and Chris Carpino joined the meeting to introduce themselves as new members and left at approximately 6:51 pm.

Chris Beach and Kevin Hammond provided an update on the progress of Building Committee. Next steps noted were a feasibility study for location and plans for the building.

Motion #94-2020

Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved closing the budget hearing at 7:58 pm. No comments from the public were received during the hearing.

Motion #95-2020

Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach and all approved passing the 2021 Caledonia Fire District Budget as presented.

Motion #96-2020

Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved to accept the September meeting minutes with the following amendments:

- Page 4: The meeting was temporarily adjourned and will reconvene on Tuesday, September 15 at 1 pm. See Motion #092-2020.

Chief Kantowski's Report:

- The Fire Report was not available and will be presented at the November meeting.
- The September Fuel Log was presented.

Motion #97-2020

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach and all approved the purchase of 12 Streamlight turnout gear flashlights at \$89 each, four Streamlight lite -boxes at \$142 each, six rechargeable batteries at \$37 each and an electric winch not to exceed \$2,000 in total.
- Deputy Chief Murray submitted a memo noting the line officers are working on pricing and styles of hose racks for the November meeting.
- Pricing on smoke detectors is outstanding.
- Netting for #114 was discussed.
- A discussion was held regarding the replacement of #112. Commissioners will revisit the topic at the November meeting.

- Follow up from previous meetings:
 - Letter to inactive members - was presented.
 - Sensit gas meter – Chief noted it is here.
 - Fire prevention supplies - have been received.
 - New pond – not received. District will write a letter to MES to voice concerns. Pond was paid for in March.
 - BRYX – software updated and working.
 - #114 – iPad – Bob Jake will work with vendors to unlock it.
 - Power hoist for hose hanger – previously addressed. See page 3.
 - Mutual Aid agreement - A current mutual aid agreement from Chief Brown of Scottsville is still outstanding for Jeff Ayers. Avon Fire Department provided a mutual aid agreement for John Kellen.
 - Reels and forestry hose for #113 – will review again in 2021.

Motion #98-2020

- A motion was made by Mr. Beavers and seconded by Mr. Beach; all approved the J.W. Jones Hall fundraiser activities as listed below with all active fire fighters eligible to participate.

October (FR= Front Room; BR =Back Room)

- 25 - Party (BR)

November

- 3 – General Election (FR)
- 4 – County Fire Police Meeting (BR)
- 8 – Party (BR)
- 23 – Red Cross Blood Drive

Fire Commissioner’s Reports

Motion #99-2020

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach and all approved necessary repairs and maintenance be made to #114 and #118 as discussed with any cost over their respective budget lines be taken from the contingency line.
- Mr. Beavers stated to the Chief, he is responsible to provide timely monthly Fire Reports to the Board of Fire Commissioners. These are expected at each monthly meeting.
- A discussion was held regarding providing candy for Halloween Trick or Treaters this year. Due to concerns over Covid 19, candy will not be offered this year.
- Mr. Dutton stated Blum Brothers quoted \$529 to extend the platform for the tank and pump on #113. Will revisit in 2021.

- Mr. Dutton stated requests for proposals went out to Gorman and Colden for discussed repairs to #116 and should be returned by November 11. Churchville has already offered their proposal.
- Mr. Dutton stated the arm to door #2 was required to be replaced. The repair will be paid by the District but reimbursement from the Village will be requested.

Motion #100-2020

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved Mr. Dutton purchasing three containers of DEF at \$9 each from Tractor Supply and use of the Tractor Supply store card for payment.

Motion #101-2020

- Mr. Schroeder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved declaring equipment listed on attachment #1 surplus.

Motion #102-2020

RESCISSION OF CANDIDATE PETITION RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Caledonia Fire District has previously adopted a requirement by resolution under Town Law § 176, subparagraph (7) requiring candidates for fire district office to submit their request to be placed on the election ballot in the form of a nomination submitted in petition form subscribed by twenty-five qualified voters of the district; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has raised concerns regarding activities that involve close face to face contact such as a person meeting with registered voters to obtain their signature on a petition; and

WHEREAS, Town Law § 176, subparagraph (7) provides the alternative of permitting candidates to be placed on the ballot by simply submitting a letter to the fire district secretary declaring their candidacy; and

WHEREAS, the Board can implement that procedure by rescinding the prior resolution requiring candidates for district office to declare their candidacy by submitting a petition form subscribed by twenty-five qualified voters of the district;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the prior resolution adopted by this Board requiring candidates for district office to declare their candidacy by submitting a petition form subscribed by twenty-five qualified voters of the district, **is hereby rescinded** and candidates for district office in 2020 and until a subsequent candidate petition resolution

may be re-adopted may declare their candidacy by submitting a letter in writing signed by them to the fire district secretary informing him/her of his/her intention to a candidate for office and describing the office and term of office which he/ she seeks.

The foregoing resolution was duly put to vote, and on roll call the vote was as follows:

Chairman Dutton - AYE
Commissioner Beach - AYE
Commissioner Beavers - AYE
Commissioner Cook - AYE
Commissioner Schroeder - AYE

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

Dated: Caledonia, New York
October 20, 2020

Attest: Susan Carson

District Secretary

Secretary Treasurer's Report

Motion #103-2020

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach and all approved payment to Glatfelter Specialty Benefits in the amount of \$5,640 for the annual Cancer Disability Insurance premium.
- Meg Churchill has submitted her letter of intent to run for Fire Commissioner this year.

Motion #104-2020

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, Mr. Cook seconded, and all approved the Treasurer's Report and payment of vouchers #127 - 140 totaling \$24,183.11.

Motion #105-2020

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved adjourning the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Carson, Secretary/Treasurer