

CALEDONIA FIRE DISTRICT
October 18, 2023

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Sue Carson, Chief Mike Churchill, Deputy Chief John Murray, and Tricia Hammond.

The public hearing for the proposed 2024 budget was called to order by Chairman Jim Dutton at 6:30 pm. All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 2024 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 19th day of September 2023.
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.

Mr. Beach was delayed and arrived at 7:10 pm.

Motion #130-2023

Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Churchill, and all approved closing the budget hearing at 7:44 pm. No comments from the public were received during the hearing.

Motion #-131-2023

Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved passing the 2024 Caledonia Fire District Budget, in the amount of \$361,846 as presented.

Motion #-132-2023

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

Chief Churchill's Report:

- Chief Churchill presented the following reports for September:
 - Fire Report
 - Truck Fuel Log

Motion #-133-2023

- Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beavers and all approved the Fire Report for September.

Motion #-134-2023

- Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, and all approved sending Patrick Hanley to NYS AFC training on November 8 at a cost of \$35 to be paid with the District's credit card.

Motion #-135-2023

- Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, and all approved the purchase of 12 pairs of structural gloves at a cost of \$81 each and 8 pairs of extrication gloves at a cost of \$45 each.
- The District will participate in Trunk or Treat events held at the school on 10/21 and Cute as Can Be day care on 10/20.
- The Senior Safety event went well.
- Deputy Chief Murray noted the following:
 - Low pressure air bag is missing and will contact the vendor to see if it was sent in for repair.
 - Low pressure regulator has dry rotted. Will bring pricing to the next meeting.
 - From previous meetings:
 - Turn out gear – shipped from Globe on 10/14.
 - SCBA masks, chargers, and bullet proof vests are in

- Pagers and mics are still outstanding.
- Fire Police gear – possibly by the end of month.
- A discussion was held on Restricted Active Members (RAM) and SOGs. It is estimated the RAM program will begin in January 2024.

Motion #-136-2023

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

October

- 21 – Wedding and Party
- 22 – Football and Birthday party
- 28 – vendor show

November

- 1 – County Fire Police Meeting
- 4– Vendor show
- 11 –Baby shower
- 18 - Holiday party
- 20 – Blood drive

EMS/EMT Update

Motion #-137-2023

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, and all approved sending Tricia Hammond for Red Cross CPR training at a cost of \$350 to be paid by the District credit card.

Motion #-138-2023

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Churchill, and all approved the purchase of 20 adult nonbreathers oxygen masks at a total cost of \$29.80, one three pack of oral glucose costing \$14.99 and two obstetrical kits at a total cost of \$44.98.
- Tricia Hammond noted the following:
 - CHS will be contacted to see if they would be willing to take our nasal cannulas in trade for adult and pediatric nonbreather oxygen masks.
 - The District’s NARCAN supply has expired. Strong Memorial Hospital donated a 10 PAK. State provides NARCAN for free.

Fire Hall Construction Update

Motion #-139-2023

- Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach, and all approved moving forward with hiring Bernard P. Donegan, Inc for financial services at a rate of \$199 per hour, plus out of pocket expenses, with rate adjustments each July 1 and authorizing Mr. Dutton to sign the Bernard P. Donegan contract.
- Mr. Dutton noted the Melissa and Jason from Donegan’s office have put together a referendum timeline with a possible vote in June 2024. They will be at our next meeting.

Fire Commissioner’s Reports

- Mr. Beavers noted the FEMA grant is still listed as submitted.
- Mr. Dutton requested an updated membership roster to comply with the upcoming Cancer Disability insurance coverage.

Motion #-140-2023

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dutton and all approved Mr. Dutton submitting a \$5,000 application for the 2024 DEC grant and required 50% match from the District funds not to exceed \$2,500.
- The DEC grant, if approved will be used to buy four sets of Wildland gear at a total cost of \$5,328.

Motion #-141-2023

- Now therefore, be it resolved that the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Caledonia Fire District on October 18, 2023, subject to a permissive referendum.

Expend up to \$16,424 plus any applicable interest earned but not yet posted from the existing Capital Building Reserve Fund GML 6-G of the Caledonia Fire District for the acquisition of a new Fire Hall (B) Said Reserve Fund shall remain a viable reserve fund for future use of the District regarding Fire Hall acquisition.

A motion was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Beach to accept the attached resolution.

The resolution was passed by a vote of the Commissioners as follows:

Ayes: 5 Commissioners: Dutton, Cook, Churchill, Beavers, and Beach
Nays: 0 Commissioners:

Adopted: October 18, 2023
Caledonia Fire District

- Mr. Cook stated he had reviewed bank statements and reconciliations for the following bank accounts and noted no discrepancies:
 - Checking account #5829 ending 9/29
 - Money Market account #7960 ending 9/28
 - Certificate of Deposit #8922 ending 9/15 (Jumbo)

Secretary Treasurer's Report

Motion #-142-2023

- Mr. Beavers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved the Treasurer's Report and payment of vouchers #166-185 totaling \$23,354.56.

Motion #-143-2023

- Mr. Beach made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Churchill and all approved adjourning the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Carson
Secretary/ Treasurer