

CALEDONIA JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
October 16, 2024

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Sue Carson, Chief Mike Churchill, Deputy Chief John Murray, Deputy Chief Andrew Carpino, Ethan Donaghue, and Tony DeMarco.

The public hearing for the proposed 2025 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 2025 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 17th day of September 2024.
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. A suggestion was received to display the EMS/EMT line again, instead of having the cost included in the Fire Equipment Repairs. No other comments from the public were received during the hearing.

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 6:50 pm.

Motion #122-2024

Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, and all approved closing the budget hearing at 7:11 pm. A suggestion was received to display the EMS/EMT line again, instead of having the cost included in the Fire Equipment Repairs. No other comments from the public were received during the hearing. This change will be made.

Motion #-123-2024

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

Motion #-124-2024

Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved rescinding motion #095-2024 appointing Sue Carson as Commissioner due to her current position as Treasurer.

It was further noted the District will not appoint a replacement at this time for the vacant Commissioner seat. At the time of the regular 2025 election, two commissioners will be elected. One for a term expiring on 12/31/27 and one expiring on 12/31/29.

Chief Churchill's Report:

- Chief Churchill presented the following reports for September:
 - Fire Report was provided electronically prior to meeting
 - Truck Fuel Log

Motion #-125-2024

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

Motion #-126-2024

- Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, and all approved rental of a 9'x11' storage unit from Caledonia Mini Storage LLC for \$65 per month, use of the District credit card for payment and rental will continue until the District no longer needs the space.

Motion #-127-2024

- Mr. Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dutton, and all approved declaring gas fan #000479 surplus and obsolete.

- The District will participate in the following Halloween events:
 - Department party- 10/25
 - Trunk or Treat event held at the school on 10/26
 - Candy at Fire Hall and Church and Jersey Streets.

- The Senior Safety event experienced a low turnout.
- Andrew Brodell is no longer Livingston County Office of Emergency Management Services Car 1 as of 10/10/24.
- Deputy Chief Murray noted the following:
 - Reviewed Livingston County Executive Chief’s meeting – see attachment Liv Co FCEM October 2024.
 - Willie Shannon’s gear is still outstanding
 - Positive pressure fan is in.

Motion #-128-2024

- Mr. Dutton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved payment to the Monroe County Fourth Battalion for 2024 dues in the amount of \$250.00.

Motion #-129-2024

- A motion was made by Mr. Cook 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

27 – Birthday party

November

2 – Banquet and Party

9– Party

16 –Banquet

18 - Blood drive and Senior Citizens

21 – Dinner meeting

Fire Hall Construction Update

- Mr. Dutton noted the Public Hearing for the bond referendum will be held Tuesday, October 29 at 7 pm. A power point presentation has been prepared.

Fire Commissioner’s Reports

- Mr. Dutton noted Mrs. Churchill, Sue Carson and Bob Jake will form a committee to work with Knycos Ferguson from Kables on developing the new website.
- Mr. Cook stated he had reviewed bank statements and reconciliations for the following bank accounts and noted no discrepancies:
 - Checking account #5829 ending 9/30
 - Money Market account #7960 ending 9/27
 - Certificate of Deposit #9253 ending 9/12 (Jumbo)

Secretary Treasurer's Report

Motion #-130-2024

- Mr. Dutton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved appointing Fred Hermansen as Chairman and the following as ballot clerks: Marilyn Johnson, Betty McClenney, Kelley McClenny, Wayne Geith, Karen Rychlicki, and Jean Arlauckas to officiate at the bond referendum vote on October 29, 2024.
- An error was made in last month's check to Cardmember Services. Check #6209 in the amount of \$422.01 was incorrect and should have been in the amount of \$296.36. Check #6209 was voided and a new check #6213 in the amount of \$296.36 was issued. The error occurred when a credit was missed on the statement.

Motion #-131-2024

- Mr. Dutton made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Churchill, and all approved the Treasurer's Report and payment of vouchers #152-170 totaling \$20,631.26.

Motion #-132-2024

- Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved temporarily adjourning the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Carson
Secretary/ Treasurer

RECONVENE
October 30, 2024

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

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Sue Carson and Attorney Ray DiRaddo

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Dutton at 6:15 pm. All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The results of the bond referendum are noted as follows.

PROPOSITION

Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Caledonia Fire District dated September 11, 2024, authorizing the expenditure of up to \$8,907,000 for the aggregate costs of the construction of an approximately 13,086 sq. ft. Fire Hall in the Town of Caledonia, New York, and various site and incidental improvements, the issuance of up to \$8,907,000 of general obligation bonds of the Fire District and the issuance of notes in anticipation thereof; and pledging the faith and credit of said Fire District to the payment of said bonds and notes and the interest thereon, be approved?

The ballot boxes were opened, examined and found to be empty by the chairman and ballot clerks, after which they were closed and locked. By announcement of the chairman, the polls were opened promptly at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard time. By announcement of the chairman, the polls were closed promptly at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard time. Thereafter, the ballots were canvassed on the election of the commissioner, which said canvass was made by the Chairman and Ballot Clerks, and the results of such canvass was announced publicly by the Chairman as follows:

Ballots for Bond Referendum

Number of ballots cast	636
Number of void ballots	None
Number of blank ballots	None
Number of YES ballots:	246
Number of NO ballots cast:	390

The Bond Referendum was defeated.

Motion #-133-2024

WHEREAS the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Caledonia Joint Fire District (The Board) must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 which includes an estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and

WHEREAS the board did adopt its proposed budget in preparation for the budget hearing, and

WHEREAS the Caledonia Joint Fire District held its annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 16, 2024, wherein the board considered the proposed budget and comments received for and against the proposed budget at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS the Board has determined that the fire district for 2025 needs to exceed the real property tax cap established pursuant to General Municipal Law 3-c for that budget year due to financial considerations discussed by the board at its meeting in preparation of the budget, and

WHEREAS the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap which allows for a tax levy of no more than 2%; and

WHEREAS pursuant to General Municipal Law 3-c, the fire district may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year only if the board of fire commissioners first enacts a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners approves this resolution to over ride the real property tax cap for the 2025 budget only, in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap which permits only a 2% increase in said tax levy which will result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$552,018 and

The adoption of the forgoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Dutton	Aye
Commissioner Beach	Aye
Commissioner Churchill	Aye
Commissioner Cook	Aye

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

Dated: Caledonia, NY
October 30, 2024

Motion #-135-2024

WHEREAS the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Caledonia Joint Fire District (The Board) must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 which includes an estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and

WHEREAS the Caledonia Joint Fire District held its annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 16,2024, wherein the board considered the proposed budget and comments received for and against the proposed budget at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap which allows a tax levy of no more than 2%; and

WHEREAS pursuant to General Municipal Law 3-c the fire district may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year only if the Board of Fire Commissioners first enacts a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such fiscal year only.

WHEREAS the board has determined that the fire district for 2025 needs to exceed the real property tax cap established pursuant to General Municipal Law 3-c for that budget year due to financial considerations discussed by the board at its meeting in preparation of the budget, and

WHEREAS preceding this resolution, the Board passed a resolution to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves the Final Budget for the Caledonia Joint Fire District for 2025 attached hereto in the amount of \$552,018.

The adoption of the forgoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Dutton	Aye
Commissioner Beach	Aye
Commissioner Churchill	Aye
Commissioner Cook	Aye

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

Dated: Caledonia, NY
October 30, 2024

- A general discussion was held on the NYS Comptroller's draft report of examination with Attorney DiRaddo.

Motion #-136-2024

- Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach and all approved the appointment of Fred Hermansen as Chairman and Marilyn Johnson as ballot clerk to officiate at the 2024 Commissioner Election on December 10, 2024.

Motion #-137-2024

- Mrs. Churchill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach and all approved adjourning the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Carson
Secretary/ Treasurer