CALEDONIA JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
October 21, 2026

MINUTES

Present: Fire Commissioners: Jim Dutton, Bill Anderson, Don Cook, Ron Beach, Jr .and Tony DeMarco.

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

The public hearing for the proposed 2027 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 2027 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 22nd day of September 2026.
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.

DRAFT

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.

No comments were received.

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.

Motion #112-2026 Resolution to override the tax cap
WHEREAS the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Caledonia Joint Fire District (The Board) must adopt a proposed budget for 2027 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

DRAFT

WHEREAS the Caledonia Joint Fire District held its annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 21, 2026, 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 2027 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 2027 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 2027 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 $657,307 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 Anderson	Aye
Commissioner Cook	Aye
Commissioner DeMarco	Aye

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

Dated: Caledonia, NY
October 21, 2026

Motion #113-2026
Budget Approval
WHEREAS the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Caledonia Joint Fire District (The Board) must adopt a proposed budget for 2027 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 21,2026, wherein the board considered the proposed

DRAFT

budget and comments received for and against the proposed budget at said budget hearing, and

WHEREAS the proposed budget for 2027 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 2027 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 2027 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves the Final Budget for the Caledonia Joint Fire District for 2026 attached hereto in the amount of $657,307.

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 Anderson	Aye
Commissioner Cook	Aye
Commissioner DeMarco	Aye

The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.

Dated: Caledonia, NY
October 21, 2026

At 6:35 pm the regular meeting was opened.

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

Motion #114 – 2026
Mr. Anderson made a motion seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved to close the Budget Hearing at 7:30 pm.

DRAFT

Motion #115– 2026
Mr. Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and all approved to accept the September meeting minutes.

Motion #116– 2026
Mr. DeMarco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach, and all approved to accept the October 7 meeting minutes.

Motion #117– 2026

- WHEREAS, the Board has been informed that the Caledonia Fire Department has approved the proposed membership of applicants John Phillips Farrell and Deanna Schubmehl, both residing at 3201 State St. Caledonia NY within the territorial boundaries of the Caledonia Fire District/area protected and
- WHEREAS, the Board has been further informed that the applicants have been cleared for membership based upon the successful completion of the arson/sex offense records check performed in accordance with Executive Law Section 837-o;
- IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED on motion of Commissioner Dutton, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, that applicants John Phillips Farrell and Deanna Schubmehl be approved for membership in the Caledonia Fire Department with a D status, subject to their completion of the oath of membership and subject to the six- month probationary requirements of the Caledonia Fire Department. On the roll call the vote was as follows:

Dutton: Aye
Beach: Aye
Cook: Aye
DeMarco: Aye
Anderson: Aye

The Fire Department reported that Eowyn Paddock is a Junior Firefighter and Rohan Paddock is a Restricted Active Member.

Chief Churchill's Report:

- The September Fire Report was provided electronically prior to the meeting. The September Fuel Log was presented.

Motion #118– 2026

- Mr. Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeMarco and all approved to accept the September Fire Report.

- Jones Chemical Chlorine training was well attended.

- Equipment Update
  - #118 – Deputy Chief Murray reviewed the progress being made on repairs done by Tonawanda Firematic. The truck is expected to be back in service by the second week of November.

DRAFT

- 2027 Ford F150 – The truck went into production on 10/16 and is expected to be here by mid-November.
- 2017 Tahoe – will be sold and put out to bid. Finalize in November.

- The APX4500 Monroe County radios are no longer useful. The commissioners requested they be sold. Estimated value is between $1,800-$2,300.

Motion # 119-2026

- Mr. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dutton and all approved declaring APX 4500 Monroe County radios, serial numbers 471CVX1620 and 471CVX1619 surplus.

- Deputy Chief Murray reported the following:
  - There are four calls missing from the in-house fire report. He will be investigating the issue and report back.
  - United Diagnostic Screening will be available at Gates Station 1 for cancer screening November 17-20.

- Mr. Dutton reviewed the Funding Navigator proposal. The company has agreed to invoice the District after January 1, 2027, to allow for receipt of the tax levy.

Approved Purchases

Motion #120-2026

- Mr. Dutton made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, and all approved using T&D Fleet Solutions to purchase and install emergency vehicle add on equipment for the 2027 Ford F 150 in the amount of $15,476.63. See attachment #1 for list.

Motion # 121-2026

- Mr. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook and all approved the purchase of an APX 8500 all band mobile radio at state bid in the amount of $8,255.52 and installation of said radio by WNY Radio Services in the amount of $1,330. Radio will be installed on the Ford F150.

Motion # 122-2026

- Mr. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, and all approved cancer screening for ten interior firefighters based upon service by United Diagnostic Services at a cost of $360 per screening.

Motion # 123-2026

- Mr. DeMarco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and all approved entering into a contract with Funding Navigator and Mr. Dutton signing the document for the District at a cost of $4,500.

DRAFT

Reported Purchases (under the $500 threshold that do not require motion and approval)

- See October 2026 attachment.

Fire Commissioner's Reports

- Mr. Cook noted with the lack of available EMTs, perhaps the village and town would allow any of their employees trained as EMTs to go to calls. Chief Churchill will follow up.

- Mr. DeMarco stated grants applications are opening on November 20.

- Mr. Cook stated he had reviewed bank statements and reconciliations for the following bank accounts and noted no discrepancies:
  - Money Market account.
  - JUMBO CD
  - Checking account.
  - Reserve account.

Secretary Treasurer's Report

Motion #124-2026

- Mr. Beach made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, and approved the Treasurer's Report and payment of vouchers #151-166 totaling $13,241.55.

Motion #125-2026

- Mr. Cook made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beach and all approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Carson
Secretary/Treasurer

DRAFT