

TAGHKANIC FIRE DISTRICT
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Organizational & Regular Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Taghkanic Fire House, 631 Old Route 82, Taghkanic, NY

Organizational Meeting

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call to Order by Andrew Soltano at 7:36 p.m.

III. Roll Call:

- Jeff Browne - present
- Abbie Hodgson - present
- Vinnie Kobos - present
- Scott Marinoff - absent
- Andrew Soltano - present

Others present: William Hilscher, Chief, Paul Nostrand - Board of Director, Cheryl Rogers - Town Clerk

Quorum of three commissioners required.

IV. Board of Fire Commissioners Election Results

Commissioners:

- 5 year term: Abbie Hodgson
- 4 year term: Scott Marinoff
- 3 year term: Jeff Browne
- 2 year term: Vinnie Kobos
- 1 year term: Andrew Soltano

Propositions:

- Capital Improvement Capital Reserve Fund - passed
- Equipment Capital Reserve Fund - passed
- Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund - passed

Andrew reviewed the results from the Fire District Election.

V. Elections and Appointments

a. Election of Chair

- i. Motion by Abbie Hodgson to nominate Andrew Soltano as Chair of the Taghkanic Fire District Board of Commissioners, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

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b. Election of Vice-Chair

- i. Motion by Abbie Hodgson to nominate Scott Marinoff as Vice Chair of the Taghkanic Fire District Board of Commissioners, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

c. Appointment of Secretary

- i. Motion by Vinnie Kobos to nominate Renée Nostrand, as Secretary to the Taghkanic Fire District Board of Commissioners at a rate of \$500.00/month, second by Abbie Hodgson. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

d. Appointment of Treasurer

- i. Motion by Andrew Soltano to nominate Carmen Nero as Treasurer To the Taghkanic Fire District Board of Commissioners at the rate of \$500.00/month, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

e. Approve Treasurer's Undertaking (see Attachment A)

- Motion by Abbie Hodgson to approve Treasurer's Undertaking as presented, second by Andrew Soltano. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Commissioners take oaths of office with Cheryl Rogers, Town Clerk.

f. Authorize Treasurer to Pay Operating Expenses as Needed

- i. Motion by Jeff Browne to authorize Treasurer to pay operating expenses as needed, second by Andrew Soltano. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

g. Appointment of Fire District Attorney

- i. Motion by Abbie Hodgson to nominate Terrance Hannigan, Hannigan Law Firm at the rate of \$355/hour partner and \$125/hour paralegal, second by Andrew Soltano. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

h. Appointment of Accountant & Auditor

- i. Motion by Andrew Soltano to appoint Suzanne Muldoon of UHY Advisors, Inc. as Accountant at a rate of \$155/hour, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.
- ii. Appoint of Auditor tabled to February meeting.

i. Accept Appointment of Firematic Officers and Company Membership

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- i. Motion by Abbie Hodgson to accept 2026 firematic officers and company membership.

Firematic Officers

- a. Chief: Bill Hilscher
- b. Car 2: Donald Coons, Jr.
- c. Car 3: Dennis Callahan
- d. Lt.: Russell Corcoran
- e. Lt: Carmine Aufiero

Company Membership: Salvatore Aufiero, Jr., Carmine Aufiero, Salvatore Aufiero, Jeffrey Browne, Michael Burgazoli, William Hilscher, Abbie Hodgson, Dennis Callahan, Riley Clark, Donald Coons, Jr., Donald Coons, Sr., Jacob Corcoran, Russell Corcoran, Arthur Griffith, Thomas Herishko, Lawrence Kadish, Vincent Kobos, David Koehler, Anthony LaSalvia, Scott Marinoff, Arthur McGuire, Dwight Morss, Carmen Nero, Paul Nostrand, Kali Soltano, Sue Soltano, Andrew Soltano, Erin Soltano, Steven Suelflow and Joshua Williams.

j. Appointment of LOSAP Plan Administrator

- i. Motion by Andrew Soltano to appoint of William Hilscher, Chief as LOSAP Plan Administrator, second by Abbie Hodgson. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.
- ii. Motion by Jeff Browne to appoint Scott Marinoff as LOSAP Plan Administrator Assistant, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

k. Appointment of Records Management Officer

- i. Motion by Andrew Soltano to appoint Renée Nostrand as Records Management Officer, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

l. Reaffirm LGS-1 Guidelines

- i. Motion by Abbie Hodgson to reaffirm LGS-1 Guidelines, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

m. Appointment of Insurance Agency

- i. Motion by Vinnie Kobos to appoint Marshall & Sterling as fire district's insurance agency, second by Andrew Soltano. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

VI. Other Organizational Actions

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a. Designate Official Newspaper

- i. Motion by Andrew Soltano to designate the Register Star as newspaper of record, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

b. Set 2026 Meeting Schedule

- ***First Tuesday*** of each month - Taghkanic Firehouse
- Public Hearing for Budget - October 20, 2026 - Taghkanic Fire House
- Elections - December 8, 2026 - Taghkanic Town Hall
- i. Motion by Jeff Browne to adopt 2026 meeting schedule, second by Abbie Hodgson. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

c. Designate Fire District Depositories and Authorized Signatories

- i. Motion by Andrew Soltano to appoint the Bank of Greene County as District depository and authorization of Andrew Soltano, Chair and Carmen Nero, Treasurer as signatories, second by Abbie Hodgson. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

d. Readopt Voucher Form

- i. Motion by Abbie Hodgson, to readopt existing voucher form, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

e. Adopt Per Diem & Mileage Reimbursement Rates

- i. Motion by Abbie Hodgson to adopt GSA per diem rates as per Federal Guidelines & mileage rate for 2026 as per IRS Guidelines.
(Note: present rate of \$166 total (\$107 lodging, \$59 meals/incidentals per diem and mileage rate of \$0.72/mile), second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

f. Set Petty Cash Fund

- i. After some discussion it was determined that the Fire District will not set up a Petty Cash Fund.

g. Approve Renewal of Lease with Fire Company

- i. Motion by Jeff Browne to approve renewal of lease with Taghkanic Fire Company for the 2026 year in the amount of \$121,997.00, second by Abbie Hodgson. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

h. Approve Renewal of Contract with the Town of Gallatin

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I. Motion by Andrew Soltano to approve renewal of contract with Town of Gallatin for fire protection for the 2026 year in the amount of \$50,265.60, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

i. Readoption of Policies and Rules and Regulations

i. Motion by Andrew Soltano to readopt the policies and rules and regulations of the Fire District, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

j. Designation of Standing Committees

i. Motion by Abbie Hodgson to approve Standing Committees as follows:

- Finance - Andrew Soltano
- Communications - Abbie Hodgson
- Training & Safety - Vinnie Kobos
- Technology - Scott Marinoff
- Facility/Equipment Maintenance - Jeff Browne

second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

k. Approve Organization Memberships

i. Motion by Andrew Soltano to approve continued membership with AFDSNY with dues of \$325, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

l. Workplace Violence Reports

i. Motion by Andrew Soltano that there were zero workplace violence reports for the 2025 calendar year, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting - moved into regular meeting at 8:31 p.m.

I. Public Comment - none

II. Reports

Secretary's Report

i. Approval of Prior Month's Minutes - December 2, 2025
Motion by Andrew Soltano to approve the December 2, 2025 minutes as presented, second by Vinnie Kobos. Motion carried.

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- ii. Renée reminded all that we need to file a summary of previous year's injury log (PESH Form SH900.1) by Feb. 1 and post until April 30.
- iii. Renée reminded that the Treasurer must submit 2% report to OSC by Feb. 28.
- iv. Renée also reminded all that Feb. 28 is also the last day for AHJ to review Partial Tax Exemption rolls and notify assessor of any changes in eligible enrolled members (per Real Property Tax Law 466-a)
- v. Renée reminded all that the Fire Police Registry as Peace Officers to be filed by Jan. 15 with Division on Criminal Justice

Treasurer's Report

- vi. Treasurer's Monthly Report - Carmen reported Income of \$.47, Expenses of \$8313.77 for labor, supplies, repairs and miscellaneous.
Carmen reported on the 2025 finances: Income of \$233,737.40, Expenses of \$184,847.08, with a year end balance of \$48,890.08.

c. Chair's Report - none

d. Chief's Report

Bill reported that he found another company to work with regarding the gas meters. Some discussion ensued regarding warranty time, shelf life, cost and need.

Motion by Andrew Soltano, to approve purchase of gas meters up to \$5100, second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

The pump testing on the trucks have been completed.

Bill and Scott met with people from the records management system and will continue to work on it.

e. Standing Committee Reports

- **Finance** - none
- **Communications** - none
- **Training & Safety** - Vinnie reported that the fire extinguishers are to be inspected on 1/12, relabeling SCBA packs for each truck, all accountability tags are up to date. Vinnie will continue working on getting the hose bed cover from Sausbier's installed.
- **Technology** - none
- **Facility/Equipment Maintenance** - Jeff reported that there were some issues with a couple of the trucks, but everything is taken care of.

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III. Old Business

- DEC Matching Grant Application - Abbie submitted application.
- Update on R/M System Meeting - Bill & Scott, see above.
- Reflections of 2025 - All felt we have covered what was needed.

IV. New Business

a. Review and Approval of Current Month's Invoices

- Labor: Treasurer - \$500 & Secretary - \$500
- Cardiac Life Products - \$6,652.79
- Garrison Fire & Rescue Corp. - \$1,859.52
- Reimbursement to Renée Nostrand - \$29.99
- (Witmer Public Safety Group - \$5,190 - this was paid in 2025)
- Bull Dog - \$1,500

Motion by Vinnie Kobos to approve the current month's invoices as presented, second by Jeff Browne. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

b. Grant Opportunity

- NYS Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grant Program - application due by Feb. 28th: Abbie advised that there is a grant that can be applied for by the fire company. Probably will need at least 50 hours of work. Need to get a group together to work on it.

c. Letter to Residents

Discussion regarding doing a letter to residents of the fire district that have private roads and/or driveways. The fire company has run into a few problems as of late. Renée will draft a letter.

V. Adjourn

Motion by Abbie Hodgson to adjourn meeting at 9:38 p.m., second by Vinnie Kobos. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 5 at 7:30 pm

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