

July 16, 2026, Regular Meeting West Sand Lake Board of Fire Commissioners

The regular meeting of the West Sand Lake Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:11 pm by Commissioner Bell. Those present were Commissioner Bell, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Hogle and Commissioner Hull. Chief Crosier, as well as Secretary Poirier & Treasurer Deutsch.

Treasurer's Report:

Building Account	\$1,307,811.74	General Checking Acct	\$ 90,514.73
Equipment Account	\$ 808,854.01	General Savings Acct	\$ 612,960.87
Total All Accounts:	<u>\$2,820,444.42</u>		

The balance of the LOSAP Schwab One Brokerage account as of 6/30/26 was \$1,240,373.46. Down about \$7,000.00 but we sent out about \$7,000.00 in entitlements.

Refund check of \$1,304.26 from McNeil. This is from taking off coverage of the 2007 Spartan.

Budget report: Treasurer went over the budget report with the board and a discussion was held, and the treasurer will make the requested category adjustments.

Treasurer received an email from Lloyd Fox with a long spreadsheet requesting that it be sent to the appropriate NYS Department. Upon reviewing the spreadsheet, I replied that I have no idea where to send the report. Lloyd did reply with two email addresses firetax@dfs.ny.gov and firetax@ins.state.ny.us. A discussion was held and it was determined that the Treasurer replies to Lloyd and requests that he send the report to these departments directly and that way he can state specifically what the spreadsheet represents and what he is looking for NYS to act on based on his report.

Received an invoice from Statetgic Safety Dynamics for multi-force tool. The PO for that was issued in November 2025 was for \$20,354.70 the invoice received is for \$34,428.95. Reviewed the minutes where the PO was requested to see if there was an error and per the minutes that PO is correct. Request recommendations on how to reconcile this as we owe additional money for the items listed in the original quote and these items have been received. The Permissive referendum was for \$80,000.00. There would be enough to cover the additional cost of these items. The \$80,000.00 has not been pulled over from the permissive referendum. That would be enough to pay for the remaining amount on the invoice received. Discussion was held on how to account for the funds and decision was made to add an additional line item for Heavy Rescue Tools – Statetgic Dynamics to account for the \$80,000.00 allocated for these tools.

Emergency Purchase Orders issued between meetings: Air Cleaning Systems NTE \$5,000.00.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion for approval of the Emergency PO to Air Cleaning Systems – First Response NTE \$5,000.00 seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Outstanding Purchase Order Report. Treasurer reviewed with board and chief in order to remove purchase orders that have been satisfied with the report.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to accept the Treasurer report, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Secretary's report:

The secretary provided the minutes for the regular meeting June 16, 2026.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Calendar: Discussion was held for removal and additions of meetings to the calendar. A revised calendar will be sent with this month's report.

BBQ's will be held on 07/23/29 & 08/27/26.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to approve the Secretary report, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Administrative Assistant Report: Absent – No report provided.

Chief Report:

During the month of July, the department successfully participated in the 250th Celebration, including parades in the Town of Poestenkill and the Town of Sand Lake. Thank you to all members who represented the department with professionalism and pride.

Membership

The following firefighters have successfully completed their required physical examinations and online training. I respectfully request Board approval of their active status:

- Jordan Daniels
- Josh Finkle
- Michael Kieley
- Gordy Hull

Additional membership updates include:

- Gordy Hull has changed membership status from Life Retired to Active.
- Courtney Gorleski has returned home on furlough and has completed her annual physical in accordance with department requirements.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to accept the new members and changes in membership status. seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.

Safety

Two members sustained hand injuries while attempting to remove the struts from the cross-lay compartment on Rescue. The injuries were caused by an exposed piece of aluminum that had been installed to protect the rope lighting inside the compartment. Both members suffered deep finger avulsions requiring medical treatment. Medical bills will be submitted as they become available.

The aluminum piece has since been removed from the Rescue apparatus, eliminating the hazard and helping prevent similar injuries in the future.

EMS Operations

Assistant Chief Frank, Captain Dan, and I met with Tim Lasher from Sand Lake Ambulance to discuss ongoing operational concerns. During the meeting, we were advised that the ambulance service's role is to provide patient treatment and transport only and not for rehab.

In response to continuing concerns regarding fire department support at EMS incidents, I contacted Speigletown Fire Department and North Bethlehem Fire Department. Both departments have now been added to our second- and third-alarm box assignments to strengthen mutual aid rehab.

We continue to experience situations where Sand Lake Ambulance attempts to cancel the fire department response. As a result, we have maintained our practice of responding with at least one apparatus to confirm the cancellation. Several times this month, although we were initially canceled, our crews were there ultimately utilized on scene for assistance, including patient lifting and providing a female EMT when needed.

While updating our box alarms, I discussed the possibility of staging the ambulance in quarters with our Medical Director, Dr. Hyashi. He does not recommend that approach. Instead, the ambulance will continue responding but will stage nearby, off scene, until needed.

A meeting between Sand Lake Ambulance, Dr. Hyashi, and West Sand Lake Fire Department is being scheduled, as Dr. Hyashi agrees there are operational issues that need to be addressed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

8:11 PM - Commissioner Bell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss policy matters, legal issues and other operational matters for the fire department, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

8:59 PM – Out of Executive Session. A constructive discussion was had regarding EMS and rehab issues.

Training

The first session of our Strut Training was held last Tuesday. The drill was well attended and provided valuable hands-on training as well as an excellent refresher for experienced members.

The department has also been awarded two New York State fire training courses to be held in September:

- Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC)
- Pump Operations

EMS & Fire Training Accomplishments

The following members successfully completed New York State EMT certification and are now available for duty:

- Kris Hogle
- Gary Griffin
- Amanda Ducharme

Additional updates include:

- Mikayla successfully completed the practical examination but did not pass the written portion. She plans to retake the written exam. Study sessions were offered Mikayla to increase her knowledge base for retaking the exam.
- Kevin is scheduled to complete his testing after returning from vacation.

- Marc and Michael successfully passed their (IFO) certification.

Member Recognition

Member of the Month: Amanda Ducharme

Amanda is recognized for successfully completing her New York State EMT certification while continuing to respond to calls and remain actively involved with the department. Congratulations, Amanda, and thank you for your dedication.

Closing Remarks

I am pleased to report that the department currently has only one open locker, which is being shared by Assistant Chief Frank and me. Every other locker is occupied. This is a welcome challenge and reflects the continued growth of our membership.

It is also encouraging to see increased participation in department training. Attendance at drills has grown from approximately 9 members to consistently 17–18 members per session. This level of involvement strengthens our department's readiness and demonstrates the commitment of our members.

Purchase Order Request: Car 1 needs new tires. I received an estimate from Quinns, I contacted Gary Ashley from Leckonby's and to date he has not returned my call. There was a discussion and there was a recommendation to contact Warren Tire for an estimate as well under state contract pricing. This has been tabled until the next meeting to discuss once all of the quotes have been received.

Car 3 Report

Looking to add a channel to our low band radios in the Chiefs vehicles. We are adding Town of Sand Lake Public Works (I have their written email ok to do so from the Commissioner of Public Works (Kevin Rifenburgh). Cost for Bearcom to come out to install is \$356.00 - I would like to suggest we add the first response unit to the list also if you don't mind. It would be additional \$178.00, bringing the total to \$534.00. This would allow us to be able to contact them when needed - especially in inclement weather. Somewhere down the road, they may add our channel to their vehicles as well, but that's not set in stone.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for a PO to Bearcom NTE \$534.00 low band radios for chief vehicles and First Response unit, seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

Asst Chief Hogle Would like to sign up to take the EMT recert course in Stephentown being taught by Sue Landy. I think if I cut back a little here by delegating a couple tasks to the lieutenants, I can squeeze this in for the fall class. Cost is \$350 (check made out to Rensselaer County Ambulance Rescue Assoc.). I already have a book since Kristina just successfully completed the course recently. Classes should be Mon/Wed.

Commissioner Hull made a motion for a PO to Rensselaer County Ambulance Rescue Assoc NTE \$350.00 for Asst Chief Hogle to attend EMT refresher course, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Starting the labor work to install at least one hydrant in the Wynantskill Creek. Looks like it will be requested during next year's application. Contacted Rensselaer County Water Conservation Department. Spoke to the person in charge and she is new to this position and is learning the process as well, so we are working together to see what needs to be done for the request of the hydrants.

Car 3 Rust. Took the vehicle to Two vendors to access the rust damage and the cost for repair. There is significant body rot in areas.

N&L Autobody: \$5,926.97

Nappers Collision Repairs: \$13,053.78

(Neither quote includes re- striping the vehicle)

Looks like they both use the same estimate program and parts vendors, but if you look at the sheets side by side, you can see Nappers was significantly more detailed in the repairs. Even the labor hours involved were more extensive (34.1 for N&L vs 67.2 for Nappers). The district has done business with N&L in the past. I've personally used Nappers and can vouch for them also.

Keep in mind the vehicle is 10 years old with nearly 74k miles on it. They are typically on a 10 - year replacement, so it is technically due. It sounds like new Tahoes were running nearly 100k when purchased new and you factor in equipment installs, lettering, etc. Even Durangos were in the 67k range, and they are the cheapest out of the "big 3" (Tahoe/Explorer/Durango). Perhaps we could consider looking at used vehicles with low milage (preferably NOT from New York in the rust belt) and say NTE \$50k to cover the vehicle, equipment swap (radios, chargers, etc) and wrap/lettering? Can a permissive referendum be requested stating NTE or does it have to have a agency attached to it from the beginning? I'm open to suggestions. This current one is not long for this world at the rate it's rusting. Poestenkill Fire Department is selling a vehicle with approximately 46,000 miles, perhaps we would like to take a look at this.

Not trying to be a Debbie downer, just being honest on its state of condition. Plus, both this vehicle and the Car 1 vehicle are due for tires (different discussions for a different day- I'm being brand specific and getting quotes for you as we speak).

After discussion, it was decided to take the Poestenkill vehicle to Quinns to look over and give their assessment of the vehicle. The results of the assessment will be presented at the August Board Meeting.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for a Permissive Referendum to allocate funds from the Capital Reserve Fund NTE \$50,000.00 for purchase of a used command vehicle and incidentals to put the vehicle into service. This vehicle will replace Car 3 2017 Tahoe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Deutsch.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the West Sand Lake Fire District; that

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners have entered into a contract to purchase a used Command Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners have heretofore established a Capital Reserve Fund to be used for Equipment & Apparatus purchases and repairs currently owned by the West Sand Lake Fire District; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost for the used Command Vehicle is Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) Dollars; and

WHEREAS, there is currently in the aforementioned Capital Reserve Fund a sum of money in excess of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00);

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners at its scheduled meeting on July 16, 2026, to transfer from its Capital Reserve Fund the sum Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for the purposes of paying for the

used Command Vehicle; said Resolution being adopted subject to a Permissive Referendum pursuant to Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law.

Commissioner Bell; Aye
Commissioner Ellis; Aye
Commissioner Deutsch; Aye
Commissioner Hogle; Aye
Commissioner Hull; Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

We are hosting two back-to-back classes here starting in September. This is the EVOC and then Apparatus Operator/Pump classes. We were offered training hours and felt this would benefit the department most to get more drivers/pump operators trained with the state courses needed and then we can get them doing their seat time here. These classes will run Mondays and Wednesdays (each class has one Saturday also) starting 9/14 and ending 10/28. Now if I'm taking the EMT class, I'll be soliciting a little help to let the instructor (Chris Racine) in and have whatever equipment needed available to him.

The Memorial Service for Gary Daus is August 8th • We'll likely have a truck out of town for a couple hours down to Troy (Oakwood Cemetery).

Commissioner Hull made a motion to accept Chief's reports, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Communications:

FASNY Letter – Fire Tax Credit Bill, CAFDA Bulletins, AFDSNY – Newsletter & APFD Thank you Letter.

Company Report:

- *Gordie Hull Jr. changed status to Active
- * Kyle Snyder and Jamie Blowers were accepted as Associate members.
- * Received application from Michael Kieley, a transfer from the G.E. Fire Brigade. Was accepted forthwith.
- * Next breakfast is in September.
- * Painting of Hall kitchen is scheduled for 17-19 July.
- * Fire Department budgeted \$3,000 for Fire/Injury prevention week. District budget is \$1500.00.
- * Summerfest is scheduled for 7-9 August.

Building & Grounds:

Update to Fire Hall Ramp Repair. Repairs will take place on 07/17/26.

Update to Fire Hall East Roof Repair – received two quotes SK Contracting \$2,450.00 and Tim Kelly Roofing and Siding \$850.00. Tim Kelly also does Slate and Siding.

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion to accept the lowest bid. PO request to Tim Kelly Roofing and Siding NTE \$850.00, seconded by Commissioner.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on installation of the Fire Station Alarm System – Ed McMahon has installed the electrical whip. The contract signed was dropped by Capital Security. Awaiting completion of 30-day Permissive Referendum on 07/26/26 in order to proceed.

Stench in Bay Oil Smell – Would like to request Clean Harbor – Need to get pricing – tabled until August Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Purchase Orders:

1. Purchase Order to Bearcom NTE \$534.00 low band radios for Chief's Vehicle and First Response unit, seconded by Commissioner Hull.
2. Purchase Order to Rensselaer County Ambulance Rescue Assoc. NTE \$350.00 for Asst Chief Hogle to attend EMT refresher course, seconded by Commissioner Ellis.
3. Purchase Order for Tim Kelly Roofing & Siding NTE \$850.00 for repair of the gutters, soffit and fascia on the Fire Hall, seconded by Commissioner Ellis.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Succession Planning workshop –Scheduled for 07/30/26 7 pm

Budget Meeting – 07/20/26 7 pm

Next Regular Board meeting - 08/20/2026 @ 7pm

New Building Meeting - TBD

AUDIT BILLS: Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve all bills as presented with the exception of Strategic Dynamic waiting on clarification of original quote, when this is received the invoice will be paid, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 pm, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne Poirier
Fire District Secretary*