

Goshen Fire District

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023

I. Call to order:

Chairman Turi called to order the regular meeting of the Goshen Fire District at 7:00 PM on April 20, 2023 in Goshen, NY. Unless otherwise stated, all of the resolutions/motions were approved by unanimous vote of the commissioners present and such persons were present during each vote unless otherwise indicated.

II. Attendees:

The following people were present: Chairman Turi, Commissioner Donnelly, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Shovlin, Commissioner Mendres, Secretary Roberts, Assistant Chief Easop,

Absent: Treasurer Keeley, Chief Wade, Assistant Chief Graham

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mendres and seconded by Commissioner Pearson to approve the minutes of the monthly meeting held on March 16, 2023. All Commissioners present in favor. Motion passed.

IV. Correspondence:

- Sent a thank you letter to Orange Bank & Trust for their generous donation.
- Received a request from the FDNY Retired Firefighters of Orange County & the Hudson Valley to use the training room for their monthly meeting.
- Received a letter from the Cataract Engine & Hose Company asking about being given their points if a firefighter couldn't attend to their duties because they were disabled similar to a member being in the military. Will send this request to PENFLEX.
- Received notification from Station 2 that they are allowing the VFW to use their firehouse on June 10 from 9-12 to honor past commanders. Secretary Roberts reminded President Budd that the Board needs updated insurance information from both the American Legion and VFW prior to this event.

V. Treasurer Report : None

VI. Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Pearson:

- 10 Truck Checks done, no major issues, refilled necessary fluids.
- 931 – Added DEF and coolant. Will need front tires.
- 932 – Added DEF and washer fluid.
- 933 – Will need tire sensor.
- 934 – Added DEF. Top off coolant, regen.
- 935 – Topped off fluids
- 936 – Added DEF. Looked for light issue that occurs when warning lights are on – could not locate. Was notified of odometer not showing up on dash. Trouble shot – let all modules reset and odometer came back on display.
- 937 – Topped off fluids and adjusted tire pressure.
- 938 – Replaced turn signal bulb and adjusted tire pressure on trailer.
- 939 – Check engine light on misfire 1 – could not activate. Clear codes.
- 941 – No report.

- Car 1 – Check engine light on Read code for oil pump – solenoid stuck open. Advised car 1 not to drive vehicle and would have it towed to dealer for warranty work. Dealer stated they couldn't duplicate code and suggest it was a dirty oil pickup screen. Asked for oil change records which were produced and said that the oil was only changed less than 1,500 miles. Picked up car and chief used for two days and went into "limp mode". Contacted dealer who arranged to have the vehicle towed to the shop. Faulty oil pressure sensor which was replaced and car 1 is back in service.
- UTV – annual service at cycle motion.
- 937 will be going in for boom and pump PM.
- Hose test is scheduled for May 15 and 16.
- Tanker committee is meeting and has started to draft what they want.

Commissioner Shovlin:

- Car 3 requested a new Halligan tool as his was lost at a fire.

Commissioner Mendres:

- Car 1 will be fixed on July 17 will be responsible for \$500.00 deductible.
- Received our report from ESIP and have to do some updates.
- Will submit towing bill for Car 1 to the insurance to be paid.

Commissioner Donnelly:

Station 1

- Laundry machine wasn't working had H&K come and fix it.
- Power box was installed and Rhino lined.
- Rubber treads were installed

Station 2

- Hose reels installed.
- Still have a key fob issue
- Had a sensor fixed in upstairs bathroom
- Heat in bays – infrared heaters fixed.

Station 3

- Toilets in bay repaired.
- Sink – replaced faucet
- Elevator wasn't working – replaced rollers
- New door kicks
- Light pole flood light redirected.

Commissioner Turi:

- LOSAP points have been mailed to PENFLEX.
- Had a request from Station 2 about members receiving points if they are disabled. Will send question to PENFLEX.

VII. Chief's Reports

Chief Wade: Absent

Assistant Chief Easop:

- Inspection is set for May 6. Will begin at Station 3 at 9:00 and end with Station 1. Lunched will be served at Lemoncello following the inspections.

Assistant Chief Graham: Absent

VIII. Old Business:

- The ethics committee has met and all have been reviewed.

- Received bids from Todd Lyons and Ward Paving. Will try patching the gap first and if that Doesn't work will look into super create. Neither bid accepted.
- Commissioner Donnelly submitted a list of projects he would like to get done this year and requested we do a permissive referendum. The list included but is not limited to the following:
Station 1 – meeting room ac, radio room be redone, 6 sets of garage doors panels replace, Boiler room door replaced, Air Compressor in bay, Outside stairwell replace, bathrooms,
Station 3 – sign, lettering, radio room, front of building repaired.
Station 2 – air compressor

IX. New Business:

- Upon a motion made by Commissioner Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to accept the attached resolutions and criteria for the FF Property Tax Exemption:
Active Firefighters/Lifetime Firefighters/Un-Remarried Spouses of deceased Firefighters
A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Turi, Pearson, Donnelley, Shovlin and Mendres voted yes. Motion passed. (Attachments A).
- A motion was made by Commissioner Pearson and seconded by Commissioner Mendres to allow the FDNY Retired firefighters of Orange County and the Hudson Valley to use our meeting room for their monthly meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Turi, Pearson, Donnelley, Shovlin and Mendres voted yes. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Donnelly and seconded by Commissioner Pearson to do a permissive referendum in the amount of \$300,000 for repairs to the three firehouses. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Turi, Pearson, Donnelley, Shovlin and Mendres voted yes. Motion passed
- All bids for the paving of the front pad at Station 1 were rejected.

X. Public Participation: None

XI. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mendres and seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to adjourn at 7:55 PM. All Commissioners present in favor. One Commissioner absent. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen A. Roberts
Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE

GOSHEN FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

**PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §466-A TO PROVIDE
TAX RELIEF TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Goshen Fire District having duly convened this date for the purpose of holding a public hearing to take public comment on the proposed tax exemption for volunteer firefighters pursuant to the provisions of Real Property Tax Law §466-a; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has held the public hearing on the proposed tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and has considered any comments made by members of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Goshen Fire District hereby grants a tax exemption of 10% of the assessed property value of property in the Fire District owned, or co-owned, by a volunteer firefighter provided that the exemption shall only apply to volunteers that meet the Exemption Criteria and the Minimum Service Requirements as set forth in **EXHIBIT A**, and provided that the exemptions shall only apply to volunteers that are certified in accordance with the certification processes set forth in **EXHIBIT B**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Fire District Secretary shall cause copy of this resolution is to be filed with the Town and County Assessors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Fire District Secretary shall cause copy of this resolution, along with the Certification Form for Annual Exemptions, to be distributed to every fire company, fire department located within the Fire District, and to any resident by request.

EXHIBIT A**EXEMPTION CRITERIA
ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS**

Real Property Tax Law §466-a provides that up to 10% of the assessed value of a property owned, or co-owned, in the Fire District by a volunteer firefighter may be exempted from the Fire District's taxes if the volunteer firefighter meets, in accordance with the law, the criteria below:

1. The volunteer is an enrolled active member of an incorporated fire company that serves the town or village in which the Fire District is located and is so certified as an enrolled active member, as determined by the Fire District, by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated fire company; and,
2. The volunteer has met the Minimum Service Requirement determined by the Fire District and is so certified, as determined by the Fire District, by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated fire company; and,
3. The volunteer resides in the town or village which is served by the incorporated fire company; and,
4. The property subject to the exemption is the primary residence of the volunteer; and,
5. The portions of the property that are not used exclusively for residential purposes, but are used for other purposes, shall be subject to taxation, and only the remaining portions shall be entitled to the exemption.

MINIMUM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum service requirement upon which the exemption can be granted shall be at least 2 years of active membership, including credit for past service.

Active membership is defined as a volunteer who is subject to call for a firemanic, emergency medical, or other operational assignment which is covered by the VFBL (fire), and who:

1. has qualified to receive a year of service credit through the LOSAP Program
2. has not experienced a gap in their service of more than 2 continuous years except in the case that the volunteer experienced debilitating injury/disease/illness/military that prevented them from serving.

PAST SERVICE

Credit for past service in a fire company or fire companies, fire department or fire departments, or any combination thereof, will be granted if such service occurred in any state, territory, or province of the United States, Indian reservations, and Canada, and the past service meets the current service requirements for an enrolled member of the fire company, fire department of which the individual is a current enrolled member.

Credit for past service will only be granted for such service that occurred, in aggregate, within the last 6 calendar years.

EXHIBIT B

**CERTIFICATION PROCESS
ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS**

Certifying a volunteer's status as an enrolled member.

A volunteer shall be certified as an enrolled member when such individual has been elected or appointed pursuant to the bylaws of the fire company or fire department, and in the case of a fire company or fire department, such elected individual is approved by the authority having jurisdiction over said fire company or fire department pursuant to New York law.

Proof of such appointments, elections, and if applicable, approvals, shall be presented to the Fire District in the form of a written letter, or certified list, signed by the Chief Operational Officer and/or Secretary of the corporation to the Fire District.

Certifying a volunteer's status as meeting the minimum service requirement.

A volunteer shall be certified as meeting the minimum service requirements when such individual provides proof to the Fire District in the form of a written letter, or certified list, signed by the Chief Operational Officer and/or Secretary of the corporation in which they are a current enrolled member that certifies that the individual has met the minimum service requirements as defined by the Fire District.

CERTIFICATION FORM FOR ANNUAL EXEMPTIONS

I, _____, being the Secretary of the _____ hereby certify to the Fire District, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §466-a, that the individuals listed below are enrolled members, as defined by the Fire District, of this Goshen Fire District, and have met the minimum service requirements as defined by the Fire District, including active membership of at least 3 years, which includes credit for past service.

. Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE

GOSHEN FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

**PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §466-A TO PROVIDE
TAX RELIEF TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FOR LIFE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Goshen Fire District having duly convened this date for the purpose of holding a public hearing to take public comment on the proposed lifetime tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers pursuant to the provisions of Real Property Tax Law §466-a; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has held the public hearing on the proposed tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers and has considered any comments made by members of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Goshen Fire District hereby grants a tax exemption of 10% of the assessed property value of property in the Fire District owned, or co-owned, by a volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker, provided that the exemption shall only apply to volunteers that meet the Exemption Criteria and the Service Requirements as set forth in **EXHIBIT A**, and provided that the exemptions shall only apply to volunteers that are certified in accordance with the certification processes set forth in **EXHIBIT B**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Fire District Secretary shall cause copy of this resolution is to be filed with the Town and County Assessors, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Fire District Secretary shall cause copy of this resolution, along with the Certification Form for Lifetime Exemptions, to be distributed to every fire company, fire department, and voluntary ambulance service located within the Fire District, and to any resident by request

EXHIBIT A

**EXEMPTION CRITERIA
LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Real Property Tax Law §466-a provides that 10% of the assessed value of a property owned, or co-owned, in the Fire District by a volunteer firefighter may be exempted from the Fire District's taxes for the remainder of their life if the volunteer firefighter meets, in accordance with the law, the criteria below:

6. The volunteer is an enrolled active member of an incorporated fire company that serves the town or village in which the Fire District is located and is so certified as an enrolled active member, as determined by the Fire District, by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated fire company; and,
7. The volunteer has met the Service Requirement determined by the Fire District and is so certified, as determined by the Fire District, by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated fire company; and,
8. The volunteer resides in the town or village which is served by the incorporated fire company; and,
9. The property subject to the exemption is the primary residence of the volunteer; and,
10. The portions of the property that are not used exclusively for residential purposes, but are used for other purposes, shall be subject to taxation, and only the remaining portions shall be entitled to the exemption.

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The service requirement upon which the exemption can be granted shall be more than 20 years of active membership, including credit for past service.

Active membership is defined as a volunteer who is subject to call for a firemanic, emergency medical, or other operational assignment which is covered by the VFBL (fire), and who:

3. has qualified to receive a year of service credit through the LOSAP Program

PAST SERVICE

Credit for past service in a fire company or fire companies, fire department or fire departments or any combination thereof, will be granted if such service occurred in any state, territory, or province of the United States, Indian reservations, and Canada, and the past service meets the current service requirements for an enrolled member of the fire company, fire department of which the individual is a current enrolled member.

Credit for past service will only be granted for such service that occurred, in aggregate, within the last 30 calendar years.

EXHIBIT B

**CERTIFICATION PROCESS
LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Certifying a volunteer's status as an enrolled member.

A volunteer shall be certified as an enrolled member when such individual has been elected or appointed pursuant to the bylaws of the fire company or fire department, and in the case of a fire company or fire department, such elected individual is approved by the authority having jurisdiction over said fire company or fire department pursuant to New York law.

Proof of such appointments, elections, and if applicable, approvals, shall be presented to the Fire District in the form of a written letter, or certified list, signed by the Chief Operational Officer and/or Secretary of the corporation to the Fire District.

Certifying a volunteer's status as meeting the service requirement.

A volunteer shall be certified as meeting the service requirements when such individual provides proof to the Fire District in the form of a written letter, or certified list, signed by the Chief Operational Officer and/or Secretary of the corporation in which they are a current enrolled member that certifies that the individual has met the service requirements as defined by the Fire District.

CERTIFICATION FORM FOR LIFETIME EXEMPTIONS

I, _____, being the Secretary of the _____ hereby certify to the Fire District, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §466-a, that the individuals listed below are enrolled members, as defined by the Fire District, of this Goshen Fire District, and have met the service requirements for the lifetime exemption as defined by the Fire District, including active membership of more than twenty (20) years, which includes credit for past service.

. Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE**GOSHEN FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS****PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW §466-A TO PROVIDE
TAX RELIEF TO UN-REMARRIED SPOUSES OF DECEASED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Goshen Fire District, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §466-a and the limitations included therein, has resolved to offer a tax exemption of up to 10% of the assessed value of certain property owned, or co-owned, in the Goshen Fire District by qualifying volunteer firefighters; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners may continue an annual exemption already being received by a volunteer firefighter to the un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter if the volunteer becomes deceased, and the Annual Exemption Criteria for Un-Remarried Spouses set forth in **EXHIBIT A**, attached hereto, are met; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners may continue a lifetime exemption already being received by a volunteer firefighter to the un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter if the volunteer becomes deceased, and the Lifetime Exemption Criteria for Un-Remarried Spouses set forth in **EXHIBIT A**, attached hereto, are met; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners requires, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §466-a, that an un-remarried spouse of a deceased volunteer firefighter must first be certified in accordance with the process for certification set forth in **EXHIBIT B**, attached hereto, before receiving such exemption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that Board of Fire Commissioners of the Goshen Fire District hereby grants a continuation of a tax exemption of 10% of the assessed property value of property in the Fire District owned, or co-owned, by the un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter that became deceased, provided that the exemption shall only apply to un-remarried spouses that meet the Annual Exemption Criteria for Un-Remarried Spouses as set forth in **EXHIBIT A**, and provided that the exemptions shall only apply to un-remarried spouses that are certified in accordance with the certification processes set forth in **EXHIBIT B**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Goshen Fire District hereby grants a continuation of a tax exemption of 10% of the assessed property value of the property in the Fire District owned, or co-owned, by the un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter at the time of the volunteer's death, provided that the exemption shall only apply to un-remarried spouses that meet the Lifetime Exemption Criteria for Un-Remarried Spouses as set forth in **EXHIBIT A**, and provided that the exemptions shall only apply to un-remarried spouses that are certified in accordance with the certification processes set forth in **EXHIBIT B**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Fire District Secretary shall cause copy of this resolution is to be filed with the Town and County Assessors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the fire district Secretary shall cause copy of this resolution, along with the Certification Form for Un-Remarried Spouses, to be distributed to every fire company, fire department, and voluntary ambulance service located within the Fire District, and to any resident by request.

EXHIBIT A**ANNUAL EXEMPTION CRITERIA FOR UN-REMARIED SPOUSES**

Real Property Tax Law §466-a provides that an annual exemption already being offered to qualifying volunteer firefighters under Real Property Tax Law §466-a may be continued for un-remarried spouses of volunteer firefighters that become deceased in the line of duty if the criteria below, in accordance with the law, are met:

11. The deceased volunteer firefighter was already receiving the annual exemption before death; and,
12. The deceased volunteer firefighter was an enrolled member, for at least five years, of the fire company or fire department that they were an active enrolled member of at the time of their death; and,
13. The deceased volunteer firefighter is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the fire company or fire department that the deceased volunteer was an active enrolled member of; and,
14. The un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter is certified as the un-remarried spouse of a previously active enrolled member of the fire company or fire department before the volunteer's death.

LIFETIME EXEMPTION CRITERIA FOR UN-REMARIED SPOUSES

Real Property Tax Law §466-a provides that a lifetime exemption already being offered to qualifying volunteer firefighters under Real Property Tax Law §466-a may be continued for un-remarried spouses of volunteer firefighters that become deceased if the criteria below, in accordance with the law, are met:

1. The deceased volunteer firefighter was already receiving the lifetime exemption for such property before death; and,
2. The deceased volunteer firefighter was an enrolled member, for at least twenty years, of the fire company or fire department; and,
3. The un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter is certified as the un-remarried spouse of a previously active enrolled member of the fire company or fire department before the volunteer's death.

EXHIBIT B

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Certifying an un-remarried spouse of a deceased member.

An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter shall be certified as an un-remarried spouse of a previously enrolled member when such individual provides proof of their status as being un-remarried to the Chief Operational Officer and/or Secretary of the fire company or fire department and the Chief Operational Officer and/or Secretary provides proof in the form of a written letter, or certified list, signed by them, to the Fire District.

Certifying a volunteer’s status as deceased

A volunteer shall be certified as deceased when the Chief Operating Officer and/or Secretary of the volunteer fire company or fire department provides proof to the Fire District in the form of a written letter, or certified list, signed by the Chief Operational Officer and/or Secretary of the corporation.

CERTIFICATION FORM FOR EXEMPTIONS FOR UN-REMARRIED SPOUSES

I, _____, being the Secretary of the _____ hereby certify to the Fire District, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §466-a, that the individuals listed below are un-remarried spouses of previously enrolled members of this Goshen Fire District.

Additionally, I hereby certify to the Fire District, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §466-a, that the individuals listed below are previously enrolled members of this Goshen Fire District that became deceased and were, at the time of death, married to the individual listed above.

. Secretary