

**Highland Fire District
Regular Meeting
April 14, 2026
7:00pm – St #1**

Commissioners:	Kevin Rizzo	(PRESENT)
	James Anzalone, Jr	(PRESENT)
	Alan Barone	(PRESENT)
	Charly Long	(PRESENT)
	Gina Hansut	(PRESENT)
District Secretary:	Leslie B. Benson	(PRESENT)
District Treasurer:	Fred DeMaio	(PRESENT)
Chief:	Jeff DiMetro	(PRESENT)

Chairman Rizzo called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM, led the salute to the flag, and asked for a moment of silence. Chairman Rizzo welcomed everyone to the regular meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Rizzo asked for approval of the regular meeting on **March 10, 2026**.

Motion: Commissioner Hansut moved to approve minutes from March 10, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Chairman Rizzo asked for approval of the Special meeting on **March 30, 2026**

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve special meeting minutes from March 30, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

2. Authorization to Pay Bills

Chairman Rizzo presented the abstract for 3/11/26 – 4/14/26

Prepays	\$ 9,927.83
Late arrivals	\$ 5,108.39
Abstract	<u>\$ 89,492.89</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$104,529.11</u>
Hold inv	<u>\$ -610.50</u>
Total	\$103,918.61

Chairman Rizzo pointed out the invoice for Brennie's Pizzeria for the 8th Grade Field Trip was on Friday, April 10, 2026, and the pizza was \$659.00 and the district will pay for this. This invoice is included in the abstract.

The invoice for Erichsen's #90861 for \$610.50 is a possible warranty claim from Premier Fire and is being held for further review.

Chairman Rizzo asked for approval to pay the bills as reviewed by Commissioners Barone, Anzalone and Chief DiMetro on April 13, 2026, totaling \$103,918.61 from March 11, 2026 – April 14, 2026.

Motion: Commissioner Barone moved to approve payment of the abstract of bills totaling \$103,918.61 seconded by Commissioner Anzalone

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

3. **Correspondence:**

- Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, April 17, 2026, from 12 noon – 5PM
- Letter from Lloyd American Legion Post 193 – Invitation to the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 25, 2026. RSVP is May 15, 2026.
- Highland Rotary Golf Outing is May 29, 2026
- Letter from Chief DiMetro regarding member resignation – FF Petrosoff
- NYSIF 37.5% dividend from 7/1/24-7/1/25 was received for both policies
- Donation from William Damberg in Memory of Gary Damberg, 12/24/24
- Resolution received from Marshall & Sterling pertaining to GML Section 209-I (1-b)
- Donald Brewer land surveying is going to station 2 on 4/16/26.

Chairman Rizzo stated that any entity (organization) or member requesting use of the Community room will be responsible to remit a \$100.00 deposit fully refundable for utilizing the room. Each month, Leslie will take photos to check the room and check the room after each event. The refundable check will be returned without any issue. We want to keep the room fresh and clean.

Room Requests: (All dates are reserved on the calendar until approved by the BoFC)

Request from Roger LaForge for June 28, 2026, for a graduation party for approximately 60 people.

Request from Highland Village Nursery School for June 12, 2026, for rehearsal and set up and June 13, 2026, for preschool graduation for approx. 90 guests.

Request from Highland Rotary, April 20, 2026, from 5:30PM – 7:00PM for new members

Request from Mike DePaola for the Ulster County Volunteer Fire Police Association for their Annual meeting on May 13, 2026, from 6:30PM – 9:00PM

4. **Executive Session:** The board will have a discussion on officer personnel prior to approval. Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve executive session at 7:07PM for officer personnel seconded by Commissioner Long. The board will meet first and then will meet with the firematic officers.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

A motion to return to general session at 7:40PM by Commissioner Anzalone, seconded by Commissioner Long – motion carried.

Approval of Officers: 31 – Jeffrey DiMetro
 31-A – Nathan Peura
 31-B – John Gallagher
 31-C – Michael Schaeffer
 31-4 - George Monteverdi
 31-5 – David DeMaio

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the slate of officers for 2026-2027, seconded by Commissioner Barone

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried. Congratulations!

5. **Committee Reports:**

Building & Grounds, St #1 – Commissioners Barone and Long

Parking spaces for firefighters – Commissioner Long advised reflective signs are in and he would like to go over this with Chief DiMetro. He has a quote for breakaway posts for \$83.45 per post.

V-Fire Grant – Commissioner Rizzo provided an update that 400 applicants applied, and we are still in the running and he remains optimistic.

IT Report: Technology Upgrade Project – St#2 – items still need to be installed.

St #1 - moving forward with ViewSonic and a wall mount. A quote for a 75” diagonal class is \$1982.00 and the mounting kit.

Building & Grounds, St #2 - Commissioner Rizzo and Anzalone

Commissioner Anzalone advised Frank Banks did some spring cleaning, added topsoil, cleaned up around burning pits and he is waiting for the flowers and will mulch.

6. **Recruiting & Retention:** Commissioners Rizzo and Anzalone

Chief DiMetro said he has 4 applications – and will be conducting interviews moving forward.

7. **Insurance/Worker’s Compensation:** Commissioners Barone and Hansut

We received pricing to increase values of the apparatus by \$200,000.00 on selected trucks and pricing would be approximately \$3246.00 but could be slightly less when decided.

Commissioner Barone felt we should keep the values the same for this year, and we will discuss this further next month.

8. **Service Awards:** Focus Wealth Management will join us on June 9th to discuss the financial portfolio. They will also present the Ladders to Learning Scholarship.

9. **Ulster County Association of Fire Districts:** Highland hosted on March 19, 2026
Commissioner Anzalone said it went very well and thank you to Leslie for organizing and the committee members who helped. The room was packed and additional tables and chairs were needed. Presentations were phenomenal.
Next meeting is 5/21/26 at Ulster Hose #5.

10. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer DeMaio reported for March 2026

Income: \$ 13,702.51
Expenses: \$255,969.79 (variable)
Net for month \$(242,267.28)
Net for 2025 so far \$ 875,227.42

No red flags, and no issues perceived or expected.

INVESTMENTS:

Cash flow CD: \$500,000.00, 3.20%, matures on 5/5/26
CD 2026 apparatus reserve allocation 384,464.70 matures 9/8
CD 2026 building reserve allocation 24,100.00 matures 9/8
Apparatus Reserve CD: \$1,384,319.16, 3.15%, matures 9/8/26
Building Reserve CD: \$199,380.08, 3.15%, matures 9/8/26

Still outstanding from last month/year – Treasury Direct – no movement yet.

Parked 2026 apparatus reserve allocation in a new CD

Parked 2026 building reserve allocation in a new CD

Chairman Rizzo asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to accept the treasurer's March 31, 2026, preliminary report, seconded by Commissioner Long.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

11. **Chief's Report:**

Report emailed to all commissioners and if there are any questions, please let him know.

Pick-Up Truck is due at the end of April or first week of May

Milton Engine Co will use the training area on 4/21/2026.

Highland Middle School 8th Grade Class trip on 4/10/26 – we had a good event, approximately 120 students visited the station to learn and experience what the department does. The event was a huge success thanks to the members that participated. We treated them to pizza. This year, Everett and Mike sent a 911 dispatch unit/equipment which was a great addition to the experience.

12. Old Business:

Mailbox Update– the 4-unit cluster mailbox – we will need change our address. County proposed
 25 Milton Ave – Town of Lloyd Police Department, they have been receiving mail at this address and can continue to do so.
 31 – Highland Fire District (or can be Highland Hose Co. No. 1)
 35 - Highland Hose Co. No. 1
 37 - Highland Hose Co. No. 1 Ladies Auxiliary
 39 – Highland Reserved address
 10 Van Wagner Road – potential EMS space

The numbering change is for GIS mapping requirement
 Commissioner Rizzo will check and we will discuss this next month.

HFD Website: The Town of Lloyd changed to Revize. We have a temporary site until they build our subsite. They offer a lot of features. We will have a secured member section, online applications that will be forwarded to the chief. More information to come.

Dedication of the Chairman’s Office – we will dedicate the chairman’s office to Steve DiLorenzo and present to his wife on 4/17/26.

District apparel – Arrived and all commissioners need to try on before getting embroidered.

MDS- ID printer – NEW ID Cards are needed and training with the officers are being worked on. Also MDS is working with IT to set drivers etc.

Capital Project: Commissioner Barone followed up with options from Pete Cirillo. He sent over 2 proposed schemes and he explained the prints. We will have a special meeting in May.

13. New Business**4 Community Room Requests**

Request from Mike DePaola, Ulster County Volunteer Fire police on 5/13/26
 Request from Highland Rotary for 4/20/26
 Request from Roger LaForge for 6/28/26
 Request from Highland Village Nursery School for 6/12/2026 and 6/13/2026

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to accept the four (4) requests as a block seconded by Commissioner Hansut. All requests submitted the \$100.00 refundable deposit.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

View Sonic purchase through Whalley Computer Associates

Commissioner Rizzo researched the Clear Touch further and found they were phasing out and a better direction is a ViewSonic wall mounted screen, his suggestion to purchase one 75” screen

to put in the officer's room for \$1982.00 plus the mounting kit for \$200.00 for an interactive white board. What they are offering is what we are looking for. Installation was discussed. He had another quote from Dell for \$3999.00

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the purchase of a ViewSonic for \$1982 plus the mounting bracket, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Purchase two (2) iClass packs of cards for ID Maker

The price for iClass cards, programmed with Day Automation is \$501.00 for a pack of 100. It was decided to order 2 packs for \$1002.00 for ID's for members.

Motion: Commissioner Hansut moved to approve the 2 packs of iClass cards for \$1002.00 seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Donation from William Damberg in Memory of Gary Damberg

The Highland Fire District received a \$1000.00 donation in Memory of Gary Damberg (12/24/24) from William Damberg. The district accepted the donation and made a recommendation to donate to the Highland Hose Co. No. 1, Inc.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to accept the donation and donate \$1,000.00 to the Highland Hose Co. seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

14. Liaison to Town - Supervisor Weiss - The town is working on the website.

KnoxBox for Arteaga's and the purchase of locks for emergency purposes, the invoice was paid and Kendra mailed.

15. Public Comment:

Any topic may be addressed except for personnel or specific Board Member issues.

The Highland Fire District Board encourages public participation at its meetings. To allow for efficiency in conducting meetings and to give each speaker a fair opportunity to present their views, the following shall apply to the public speaking portion of the agenda.

- Each Speaker shall state their name;
- Each Speaker shall be limited to a time (approximately 3 minutes) which is agreed upon by the Board;
- The Board will not permit discussion involving individual personnel.
- Direct all remarks to the chair. Community members may not poll individual Board Members nor debate with other community members in attendance.

Once again, members of the community are encouraged to attend and speak during public comments. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of the Board of

Business will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. While individuals have the right to email the District Secretary with questions or concerns at any time, the Board will not read emails aloud during the public participation portion of the meeting.

Comments:

Robert Parady, asked if meetings would be recorded and posted on website. Chairman Rizzo addressed the question, as it is in the vision and will take some time, but we are headed in that direction.

Current website with attachments

For St #2 – what about the septic? Designated waterways – we are waiting on the survey

Mike Gaffney – he located the original email to County regarding numbering for the mailbox and found 23 Milton Ave was available, 27 & 29 skipped. The police department has a lot tied to 25 Milton Avenue.

Will check to see if other numbers are available.

Mike Gaffney advised he was elected as president of the Hose Company and held the position in 2006 and is happy to be back and work with the board.

Commissioner Hansut said she was approached by someone to ask if the fire department could clean off the pavilion area at the Highland Landing.

16. Executive Session: (*The Board requests for anyone requesting an executive session submit their request to Secretary, Leslie Benson, by the first Wednesday of the month to be added to the agenda.*)

Chief DiMetro requested executive session with the Board regarding personnel issues.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve executive session with Chief DiMetro regarding personnel issues seconded by Commissioner Long at 8:34PM.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

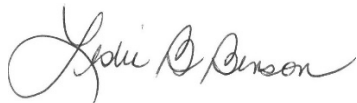
Motion was carried.

The board will not be reconvening.

17. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the board did not reconvene and adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted



Leslie B. Benson
District Secretary