

**Highland Fire District
Regular Meeting
July 14, 2026
7:00PM – St #1 – 25 Milton Avenue, Highland**

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:	Jeffrey 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 minutes on **June 9, 2026**.

Motion: Commissioner Long moved to approve minutes from June 9, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain (Commissioner Anzalone) 0 Absent
Motion was carried.

2. Authorization to Pay Bills

Chairman Rizzo presented the abstract for 6/19/2026 – 7/14/2026

Prepays	\$ 4,311.57
Late arrivals	\$ 4,435.71
Abstract	<u>\$ 73,289.55</u>
Total	<u>\$ 82,036.83</u>

Chairman Rizzo asked for approval to pay the bills as reviewed by Commissioner Anzalone, Commissioner Rizzo and Chief DiMetro on Monday, July 13, 2026, totaling \$82,036.83 from 6/19/2026 – 7/14/2026.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve payment of the abstract of bills totaling \$82,036.83 seconded by Commissioner Barone

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent
Motion was carried.

3. Correspondence:

- Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, July 14, 2026, from 12 noon – 5PM
- Letter from RBT announced on 7/1/26 they are officially a part of UHY
- A thank you letter was received from Deputy Chief Robert Ridley from Fairview Fire District for Highland's assistance at the former Hudson River Psychiatric Center fire on June 3, 2026.

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

- Request from Lt Miller for July 4, 2026 (Poughkeepsie) for a 1-hour briefing on fireworks.
- Request from Lt Miller for July 11, 2026 (Highland) for a 1-hour briefing on fireworks.
- Request from Lt Miller for Wednesday, July 22, 2026, for CPR/First Aid and Reality Base Training

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve Town of Lloyd Police department's request for July 4th for 1-hour briefing on fireworks, seconded by Commissioner Hansut
 Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent
 Motion was carried.

Motion: Commissioner Barone moved to approve Town of Lloyd Police department's request for July 11th for 1-hour briefing on fireworks, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone
 Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent
 Motion was carried.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve Town of Lloyd Police Department for July 22, 2026, for CPR/First Aid and Reality Base Training, seconded by Commissioner Long
 Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent
 Motion was carried.

4. **New Members:** 3 members attended, Jack Barrile, Thalan Riley and Christian Erichsen
 Commissioner Rizzo welcomed the 3 members tonight and said after tonight you will schedule your physical with First Care and upon completion of the physical, you will have orientation where equipment will be issued and you will be in service.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve Jack Barrile, and Christian Erichsen as probationary active members, and Thalan Riley as an active member with age restrictions on probation dependent on them all passing their physicals, 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

St #1 Monument/Landscaping – Commissioner Long spoke with Top Seed, and there was discussion regarding the placement of the mailbox. Committee: Commissioners Long, Barone, Chief DiMetro and Leslie to discuss options, possibly pavers, fix concrete, a bench or stand-alone planters?

St #1 Clean-Up – Remove surplus items by John Gallagher and Mike Schaeffer and remove items in the rear of the building. Frank Banks will do a deep cleaning, tree trimming / clean-up is part of his agreement.

V-Fire Grant – We haven't heard yes or no and are still in the running. June 30th was the deadline.

IT Report: Commissioner Rizzo and Treasurer DeMaio met with MCS. We feel we are not getting service, and they said we are getting more than we are paying for. We will renegotiate pricing

All district computers will be updated and monitored

Fred and Leslie's computers will be covered 8 to 6

We confirmed 7 computers

The new estimate was received for \$1,693.00; board will review proposal and investigate another option.

We will hold off tonight and will discuss it with them on Thursday.

We also requested an estimate from MCS regarding the router. The current router will be obsolete, and we should upgrade to maximize the use of the fiber optics. We will hold this estimate for further discussion.

Elevated Computing:

We received an estimate from Elevated Computing to run Cat6 Ethernet cable from the police station to the fire department network room. The price is \$1700.00. Cat6 is standard should we go to Cat7 to future proof? We will check on this – not sure how much more this would cost.

We will accept this quote as presented for \$1700.00

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve \$1700.00 for Elevated Computing to run the cable seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Building & Grounds, St #2 - Commissioner Rizzo and Anzalone
Technology Upgrade project was discussed.

Commissioner Anzalone added Frank is doing a great job – no issues

6. **Recruiting & Retention:** Commissioners Rizzo and Anzalone
(Committee: Chief DiMetro, John Gallagher and David DeMaio)

We approved 3 members tonight and moving in the right direction.

Bootcamp dates are not confirmed yet.

7. **Insurance/Worker's Compensation:** Commissioners Barone and Hansut
8. **Service Awards:** Next update will be November 10, 2026
9. **Ulster County Association of Fire Districts:** Next meeting is 9/17/26 at Port Ewen FD.

10. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer DeMaio emailed the financial report for June 2026.

\$344,975.00 balance of 2026 budget left to spend, not counting 2025 surplus.
No issues perceived or expected but dependent on the station #2 project expenses.

INVESTMENTS:

CD 2026 apparatus reserve allocation 384,464.70 matures 9/8/26
CD 2026 building reserve allocation 24,100.00 matures 9/8/26
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
XXXX5638 SCBA Reserve CD \$25,000.00, matures 9/8/26
XXXX4329 Excess Funds CD \$400,000.00 matures 8/16/26
XXXX1981 Excess Funds CD \$300,000.00 matures 8/12/26

TREASURY DIRECT: Account is open and ready for trading.

Audit 2025 – RBT deadline was 6/30/26 and not complete yet. Additional information was needed and submitted.

Timeline for budget – Treasurer DeMaio will provide a line-by-line presentation on August 11th
September 8, 2026 – Adopt proposed budget for 2027
October 13, 2026 – Regular meeting
October 20, 2026 – 2027 Proposed Budget Public hearing
October 20, 2026 – Special Meeting after Proposed Budget hearing
November 2026 – final budget

Chairman Rizzo asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report for June 2026 as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to accept the treasurer's June 30, 2026, as presented, 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.

The Chief's office would like to request the Board approve the addition of a Hemoglobin A1C to Members physicals.

New spec of gear for non-interior drivers and exterior firefighters is being researched, will be the same brand, and will look the same. It will be considerable lighter, still giving the protection they need. This could also be a cost savings.

Gear rental – The chiefs office will get more information.

Mutual aid to Clintondale – We are working with them and will respond to what is requested.

2015 Tahoe – What is the plan for this Tahoe? Shall we sell it or keep a second Tahoe? We may contact other departments to see if they are interested. Check the blue book for its worth.

31-35 – Presently at Premier and L31-45 will be scheduled after the completion of 31-35.

Commissioner Rizzo, Chief DiMetro and Assistant Chief Schaeffer had a conversation with Kenny Finke regarding service and response.

12. Old Business:

HFD Website: We will start to design/build ours when the Towns final revisions are complete. This could be September. We did get approval on the .gov domain.

Surplus Items: Attorney advised if deem value – put out to auction or attempt to sell, if no value – we can throw away.

31-45 Auto Sow – this is an ongoing problem. We will check into this further. The last issue struck truck and caused damage to ladder. We have had problems since we bought it. Commissioner Rizzo will contact Kenny at Premier Fire.

Tool Box for Cage- Item is ordered with an estimated delivery for the end of July.

MCS Update – Review contract and email Commissioner Rizzo with any questions.

St #1 Property Clean up – Sorbello's will pick up items on Thursday, 7/16/26.

Capital Project: Title Search – pricing not any more than \$600.00 and with the railroad and trolley station – would be a good idea. We will get 3 quotes.

13. New Business:**The Addition of Hemoglobin A1C added to physicals**

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the addition of Hemoglobin A1C test to members physicals for the additional cost of \$15.00 per physical, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Ladies Auxiliary

With the intention of calling on the Ladies' auxiliary for signal 10's and requesting them more, Commissioner Rizzo would like to set a line budget of \$2500.00 in the upcoming year.

8th Grade Field Trip – September 30, 2026

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the 8th Grade Field Trip for September 30, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Request for 31-12 & 31-68 to Napanoch for County Parade

The request for 31-12 and 31-68 to Napanoch for the County Parade on July 25, 2026

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the apparatus request for 31-12 & 31-68 to Napanoch for the County Parade on Saturday, July 25, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Long.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

14. Liaison to Town - Supervisor Weiss not in attendance**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:

Chris Erichsen mentioned that we dropped the vendor for St #2 for the heating/AC if it needs to be monitored.

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.)*

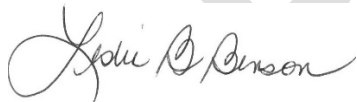
Chairman Rizzo requested Executive Session with the Board, Chief and the Hose Co President (he is currently delayed) for the purpose of discussing employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve executive session request to discuss personnel matters at 8:49PM, seconded by Commissioner Long.

The board will not reconvene.

17. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Commissioner Anzalone moved to adjourn at 8:49PM , seconded by Commissioner Long.

Respectfully submitted



Leslie B. Benson
District Secretary