

**Highland Fire District
Regular Meeting
March 10, 2026
7:00pm – St #1**

Commissioners:	Kevin Rizzo	(PRESENT)
	James Anzalone, Jr	(PRESENT)
	Alan Barone	(PRESENT) Arrived 7:20PM
	Charly Long	(PRESENT)
	Gina Hansut	(PRESENT) Arrived 7:03PM
District Secretary:	Leslie B. Benson	(PRESENT)
District Treasurer	Fred DeMaio	(PRESENT)
Chief	Jeff DiMetro	(PRESENT)

Chairman Rizzo called the regular meeting to order at 7:02PM, 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 **February 10, 2026**.

Motion: Commissioner Long moved to approve minutes from February 10, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Commissioner Barone)

Motion was carried.

Chairman Rizzo asked for approval of the Special meeting – Capital Improvement Project on **February 11, 2026**

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve special meeting minutes from February 11, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Commissioner Barone)

Motion was carried.

2. Authorization to Pay Bills

Chairman Rizzo presented the abstract for 2/13/26-3/10/26

Prepays \$ 5,682.82

Late arrivals \$ 12,276.56

Abstract \$116,049.63

Total \$134,009.01

The abstract includes two (2) invoices that needed approval:

Rider Painting provided paint services for the community room that was approved via email because the room was cleaned due to an accident and it was time to paint. We had 3 quotes

and secured 2 bids with the timeline needed as the room was not booked. Chairman Rizzo asked for a motion to pay Rider Paint, \$6,147.00 that was in the abstract,

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the invoice from Rider Painting for a total of \$6,147.00 seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Barone)

Motion was carried.

Cirillo Architect is the current architectural firm for the St #2 Capital improvement project. The St #1 V-Fire grant project was due and had a strict timeline – a schematic and cost estimate was needed to meet the deadline of the grant. The invoice for \$4,030.00. and is included in the abstract.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve payment to Cirillo Architect totaling \$4,030.00, seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Barone)

Motion was carried.

Chairman Rizzo asked for approval to pay the bills as reviewed by Commissioners Barone, Anzalone and Chief DiMetro on March 9, 2026, totaling \$134,009.01 for 2/13/2026 - 3/10/2026

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve payment of the abstract of bills totaling \$134,009.01, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Barone)

Motion was carried.

3. **Correspondence:**

- Red Cross Blood Drive is Monday, March 16, 2026, from 12 noon – 5PM
- LOSAP points submitted on 2/25/26 with increases due in April.
- M&O Sanitation will be servicing St #1 and St #2 on March 12, 2026, at 8:30AM
- Steve Sorbello picked up some items on 3/4/26
- Town of Lloyd Fire Safety inspection of Community Room was on 3/5/26 - PASSED

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

Request from Christine Giangrasso on 2/16/26 to change the meeting date for the Highland Rotary Club to 3/18/26 –meeting w/pizza and club assembly for approximately 25-30 members – from 5:30PM -8:30PM – Email approval for date change

Town of Lloyd Police Department request for March 3, 2026, for Cops & Coffee – Email approval was granted.

Town of Lloyd request made by Anthony Giangrasso for 3/24/26-3/27/26 for AED/CPR training for Town of Lloyd employees, 8:00AM – 1:00PM with an approx. 34 employees per day. They need 3 consecutive days for training.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to accept the three (3) requests as a block seconded Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Barone)

Motion was carried.

The Community room request form has been changed. The room looks great, as there were cosmetic signs of wear and tear. The adjustment to the application is, there will now be a refundable room fee of \$100.00 payable to the Highland Fire District. The deposit will be refunded after the event and when the room is inspected by the District.

4. **New Membership:** Welcome back Mike DePaola. This is a formality to come before the board of fire commissioners for discussion. He is excited to be back.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to reinstate Mike DePaola as an active member dependent on passing the physical, seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Barone)

Motion was carried.

5. **Committee Reports:**

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

Parking spaces for firefighters, we are looking to revamp and paint lines in red reflective paint to reserve parking spots. We have a new stipulation; with larger groups, organizations and schools they are required to have staff monitoring traffic and parking in designated areas during their entire event. We would like to expedite this process and get this completed early spring.

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo moved to spend up to \$3000.00 on signs, stenciling and striping before June 2026, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Barone)

Motion was carried.

V-Fire Grant – Grant has been submitted and is in the queue. Thank you to Supervisor Weiss for your letter of support. The process could be 60 days to 4 months.

Thank you to everyone who helped. We received letters of support from Senator Hinchey's office, Assemblymember Jacobson, County Executive Metzger, County legislator's office, the Town of Lloyd, New Paltz Rescue Squad and Department of Emergency Services, Ulster County.

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

Clear Touch Panels - would like to purchase up to 3 monitors with the idea of one for the commissioners' room for project presentations, officers room for training and possibly the community room. This will be a great tool moving forward. Establish a budget and cart option, can be purchased on state bid, either CDW or Sourcewell. It will be discussed in April.

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

Snow removal – The Town took care of this area near the fuel pump. Commissioner Anzalone will contact Frank Banks to fix the planters.

6. Recruiting & Retention: Commissioners Rizzo and Anzalone

The Chief is applying for grants, and the Ulster County grant writer was extended for a period to assist. The Chief is applying for a complete upgrade to weight room facility. Commissioner Barone said the Chief can become the grant writer, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone.

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

We met last week with Stacey of Marshall & Sterling. The policy came in \$400.00 cheaper than last year.

We want to revisit the discussion on the apparatus as we have agreed values set up with a deductible of \$1,000.00. The amount paid by insurance for agreed value was 75% of cost and this was reduced to 60% this year.

We have agreed values of \$800,000.00 on the pumpers, it would need to be almost \$500,000.00 worth damage that marks it totaled. Insurance will pay that amount and we would pay the difference to replace the apparatus.

Do we need to raise the agreed values?

We will get quotes on the engines, tanker

Discussion on personal vehicles – if a member arrives upon an accident and not toned out. We will review a resolution next month.

8. Service Awards: No updates**9. Ulster County Association of Fire Districts:** Highland is hosting on March 19, 2026

Committee: Commissioners Anzalone, Long, and Hansut

Food has been ordered from Sal's catering. Budget discussion was \$1200.00. Dinner will be ready by 6:30PM.

Motion: Commissioner Hansut moved to approve \$1200.00 for the food ordered from Sal's Catering, seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

10. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer DeMaio reported for February 2026

Income: \$18,012.00

Expenses: \$62,363.30

Net for month \$(44,351.30)

Net for 2026 so far \$1,174,688.00

No issues perceived or expected.

INVESTMENTS:

Cash flow CD: \$150,000.00, 3.05%, matured on 3/6 and deposited to pay Firefly
 Excess funds from 24, 23, 22 CD: \$375,047.23, 3.35% matured on 3/8/26, rolled into 2 New CD's.
 2026 apparatus reserve allocation 384,464.70 matures 9/8
 2026 bldg reserve allocation 24,100.00 matures 9/8
 Cash flow CD: \$500,000.00, 3.20%, matures 5/5
 Cash flow CD: \$500,000.00, 3.15%, matures 4/5
 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.

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

Motion: Commissioner Long moved to accept the treasurer's February 28, 2026, preliminary report, seconded by Commissioner Barone.

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.

Milton Engine Co will use the training area on 3/31/2026.

Request for an engine for Firefighter 1 on May 7, 2026, we have 4 members.

Chief is working on a DEC Grant for \$7,000.00

NERIS – The system is still rounding up or down for percentages. Is this what we want to do?
 For LOSAP – he highly recommends. It is basic math, 5 or above round up and under 5 round down. Round to the next whole number.

All Commissioners agreed on this.

4/10/26 – 8th Grade field trip

Apparatus requests:

4/7/26 – 31-35 to UCFTC (FF1)

4/16/26 – 31-12 to UCFTC (FF1)

Old Business:

MDS Badge printer – The town has a system not sure how feasible it would be for us. All members need an ID card as this also offers benefits being in the fire service. IDs are used through FASNY while applying for grants or scholarships. Commissioners are interested in the chip card, members will have another ID. The quote from MDS is \$4050.46.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the ID Maker for \$4050.46 under recommendations of the Chief's office, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Mailbox – Was researched with a 4-unit cluster mailbox for \$2475.00 and a 3-unit surface mounted for \$1413.00 both units have shipping charges of \$213.68 from CA. Secretary Benson researched both units with a USPS approved vendor. The vendor did indicate that the USPS still needs to approve prior to ordering. It was discussed that each entity would pay a one-time fee as a co-project.

Motion: Commissioner Barone moved to approve the entire expense of \$2688.68 to be paid by the District, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

HFD Website: The Town of Lloyd signed a contract with a new vendor, Revize and they will no longer use CivicPlus going forward. They will migrate information to the new website and we will create a subsite under the Town. No monthly fee, we will compensate the town. They offer many options and ADA compliant. The site within the Town site would add to their contract and piggyback onto that agreement. This would be a one-time set up fee of \$2250.00 with no annual fee.

The website subcommittee will consist of Chief DiMetro, Commissioner Rizzo and Secretary Benson.

Motion: Commissioner Long moved to approve the new website for \$2250.00 as having a subsite from the town, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried

Capital Project: Commissioner Barone followed up with options from Pete Cirillo. We were thinking of:

Possibly doing an "L" shape and that seems the way to go, spoke of tearing down the barbecue pit/building, relocate the pavilion. Also spoke of adding the roof project and fixing asphalt. We can discuss it more at the special meeting on March 24, 2026.

12. New Business

Contribution towards the 2025-2026 Highland Hose Annual Installation Banquet

The dinner committee has revamped the concept. Our contribution was \$5000.00.

Motion: Commissioner Hansut moved to approve \$5,000.00 to the Highland Hose Co annual installation banquet, seconded by Commissioner Barone.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Dedication of the Chairman's office to Steve DiLorenzo

Commissioner Barone investigated dedicating the chairman's office to Steve DiLorenzo with a plaque and similar to Benny's. Steve served 56 years in the Hose Co, served as fire Commissioner for 27 years and Chairman of the Board the last 17 years.

Commissioner Rizzo asked Commissioner Barone to be the lead on this project. Seconded by Commissioner Anzalone – all agreed.

St #2 – Surveys

As per our procurement policy we obtained 3 proposals for an updated survey with topographic at St #2

Proposals received from:

Donald Brewer Surveying, Inc – includes an outbound property survey updated 4.8+- acres for \$3500.00.

Control Point Associates Inc – (formerly Brooks & Brooks) includes boundary, topographic & location survey of 5 +/- for \$6950.00 with a required retainer of \$3475.00

Heritage Land Surveying, PC – includes boundary and topographic survey of both lots for \$8000.00 with a 50% deposit of \$4000.00 with a progress payment schedule

Brewer Surveying pricing is considerably less as we are a former client and they are just updating. They work with districts and perform services for a better rate. If they can produce drawing in CAD format – we will go with Brewer.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone motioned to move forward with Donald Brewer Surveying for \$3500.00 seconded by Commissioner Long

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

Day Automation - We inquired about pricing of 6 doors with access control with card reader, door sensors, pricing came in \$27,832.41.

We re-cored the district doors as Steve ordered 2 years ago – the core came with 12 keys. Leslie is working on getting "A" keys returned.

District Apparel :

With the new commissioners, we are ordering 3 styles so members can attend meetings with apparel identifying them as district officials. This will include the Commissioners, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief. Quote for 6 was \$1006.80... requesting \$1200.00.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone motioned to approve \$1200.00 for district apparel, seconded by Commissioner Long

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

DEC Grant – Chief DiMetro is working on DEC Grant for up to \$7000.00 on the purchase of approved firefighting supplies.

Motion: Commissioner Hansut moved to approve spending up to \$7000.00 for firefighting supplies, seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Community Room – The room has been newly updated with the room painted and floor waxed. We also have a revised community room usage form with \$100.00 refundable deposit after the event. There is absolutely no tape on the walls/doors, and this applies to all members & community organizations. If any damage or changes to the room occur during an event, this will forfeit the \$100.00 deposit. Leslie will be taking pictures monthly showing the conditions of the room, especially after events.

13. Liaison to Town - Supervisor Weiss - nothing additional, thank you for inviting me.

14. 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:

NO COMMENTS

15. **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.)*

No executive session requests.

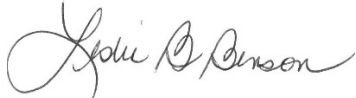
16. **Adjournment:**

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM, seconded by Commissioner Hansut.

Vote: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted



Leslie B. Benson
District Secretary

APPROVED BOFC 4/14/2026