Highland Fire District
Regular Meeting
October 13, 2026
6:00PM – St #1 – 25 Milton Avenue, Highland

Commissioners:	Kevin Rizzo	(PRESENT)
	James Anzalone, Jr	(ABSENT)
	Alan Barone	(PRESENT)
	Charly Long	(PRESENT)
	Gina Hansut	(PRESENT)
District Secretary:	Leslie B. Benson	(PRESENT)
District Treasurer:	Fred DeMaio	(PRESENT)
Chief:	Jeffrey DiMetro	(ABSENT)
	1ST Assistant Chief Peura	(PRESENT)

Chairman Rizzo called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 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 **September 15, 2026**
   Motion: Commissioner Long moved to approve minutes from September 15, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Hansut.
   Vote: 3 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain (Commissioner Barone 1 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone)
   Motion was carried.

2. **Authorization to Pay Bills**
   Chairman Rizzo presented the abstract for 9/25/26 – 10/13/26

Prepays	$ 4,312.84
Late arrivals	$ 3,793.00
Abstract	$ 42,571.59
Total	$ 50,677.43
	$- 12,650.00 (Holding Highland Water & Sewer)
	$ 38,027.43

   Chairman Rizzo asked for approval to pay the bills as reviewed by Commissioner Barone, Commissioner Rizzo and Assistant Chief Gallagher on Monday, October 12, 2026, totaling $38,027.43 from 9/25/26 – 10/13/26.

   Motion: Commissioner Barone moved to approve payment of the abstract of bills totaling $38,027.43 seconded by Commissioner Long
   Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone)
   Motion was carried.

3. **Correspondence**:
   - Red Cross Blood Drive, Friday, October 23, 2026, from 12 noon – 5PM
   - Russo Fuel & Propane fixed-rate program 2026-2027

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- Legal ad for 2027 Proposed Budget Public Hearing and special meeting on 10/20/2026, was posted in the Southern Ulster Times on 10/8/26
- Legal ad posted for time change of meeting 10/13/26 to 6:00PM
- Letter from Chief DiMetro, regarding member change of status, Lou Dolcemascolo changed to exempt member on October 6, 2026.
- Garone's Lawn & Landscaping – snow removal contract updated.
- Invitation from the First Presbyterian Church of Highland for all commissioners, chief and members of the Hose Company to attend Fire Service Appreciation Day on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 9:30AM.

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

3 Room requests received:
Request from Highland Hose Co & Ladies Auxiliary for 12/6/2026 for the Hose Company's children Christmas party from 10-4PM, party is 1-3PM.

Request from Everett Erichsen, Ulster County Department of Emergency Services for November 4, 2026, from 11AM – 2PM for a lunch and learn meeting on ePCR's. Approx 100 participants. Set up requested for November 3, 2026, time to be determined.

Request from American Red Cross for 2027 blood drive dates: 1/15/27, 2/12/27, 3/15/27, 4/6/27, 5/14/27, 6/18/27

4. **Committee Reports**:
Building & Grounds, St #1 – Commissioners Barone and Long

Leaks – Commissioner Barone advised we have several leaks on South wall, not urgent but we need to take care of. Hollenbeck & Dailey called.

Ladies room leak on 10/10/26 – the flushometer blew and water flooded down the halls near the community room. Fans were set up Saturday through Sunday night. No damage to sheetrock. The plumber is on vacation – so it's out of order.

Mailbox/Landscaping: Commissioner Long advised committee met and picked a design. He is now contacting concrete companies for estimates and time frame. This project may wait until Spring. A commissioner can do the work as long as they are not paid.

V-Fire Grant Project Update: Commissioner Rizzo advised we did not receive the grant. We can reapply next year.

Paint – estimates for red and black trim, doors, garage doors, Ballards, lamp posts and red lettering. Reached out for contracts.

Windows – Commissioner Barone, Eastside 5 bays, 7 or 8 insulated glass panels are leaking and he reached out to Dutchess Overhead Doors.

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Security Cameras – stopped working and we have no support. We have quotes to replace and upgrade the exterior cameras.

IT Report:
Fiber Optic – MCS and Elevated are working on this. We will now need to upgrade the router to access the bandwidth.

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

Generator issues –Gentech is still working on this.

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

We hosted the 8th Grade field trip on September 30, 2026. It was an awesome day, including the students who engaged and participated in activities. The kids got a lot out of it. The explorer program will begin and hopefully we will have some interest. Next time, invite our neighboring district's Chiefs to this event.

The ladder truck was set up at the soccer game at the High School on October 2, 2026. There was also a remembrance for Michael Oremus.

6. **Insurance/Worker's Compensation**: Commissioners Barone and Hansut
Nothing to report

7. **Service Awards:** Next update will be November 10, 2026

8. **Ulster County Association of Fire Districts**: Next meeting is November 17, 2026, at Marlboro

9. **Treasurer's Report**:
Treasurer DeMaio emailed the financial report for September 2026.
We have expended 96% of the budget, no red flags
No issues perceived or expected but dependent on the St #2 Capital Project
There are four (4) open CD's and nothing on the horizon.
Commissioner Barone thanked Fred and Kevin for pushing along with the interest income.

10. **Chief's Report**:
Report emailed to all commissioners and if there are any questions, please let him know.

Fire Prevention is being conducted at pre-schools, and the elementary school. Feedback from the administration was positive.

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Alzheimer's Walk on October 17th, requested EMT to assist with New Paltz Rescue. EMT Bacon is attending with Firefighter Christine LaForge from 10-1PM.

Lowe's donated water for fire safety day and the extra was donated to Stuff the bus.

31-67 air leak, air suspension repair
31-68 – new tires, all season, and these tires moved to the 31-C car.

11. **Old Business**:

HFD Website: We are in the final stretch and about 90% complete. There will be a member section, with usernames to access the website. Items would be SOP's, Hose Companies by-laws, first care documents, sexual harassment information and any other pertinent information for members only. This is an additional initial set up fee of $2000.00 and $500.00 per year thereafter.

Fiber Optics: MCS quoted a new router for $4906.20

MCS also provided an estimate for a Dell Computer w/27" monitor for $1359.98.

Garone's – revised contract received

Capital Project: Next meeting is 10/29/26 at 6PM.

Photography & Electronic Policy – sent to legal counsel and no issues. Copies will be provided to the Hose Co. Policy was the same – just updated. Discussion on policy, don't take pictures at a scene and post on the internet.

12. **New Business:**

Paint estimates for St #1

Superior Painting Plus – George Nace – declined to submit quote as he is short manpower
Pittman & Brown
Rider Painting

Quotes opened at meeting:
Pittman & Brown $13,950.00
Rider Painting $14,691.20

A few questions
Pittman – does it include a lift? As one quote is $650.00 more
Officers will move apparatus
Both offers received were reasonable
Awarded to: Pittman & Brown

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Motion: Commissioner Long moved to accept estimate from Pittman & Brown in the amount of $13,950.00, seconded by Commissioner Hansut
Vote: 3 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain (Commissioner Barone) 1 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone)
Motion was carried.

Security Camera's:
Estimates received from A&R, Everon and Summit Fire
Quotes were reviewed and a few questions and decision made to table camera's.

Garone's Landscaping – Snow Removal – Renewal Contract – 2026-2029, 3-year contract
Pricing discussed for each station for snow removal and salt.
We would like Garone's to state in the contract the number of inches that qualifies as a storm and would like a separate quote for snow removal off site if needed.
Revised contract received and accepted.
Motion: Commissioner Long moved to accept Garone's snow removal contract for 2026-2029, seconded by Commissioner Barone
Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone)
Motion was carried.

Russo 2026-2027 Fixed-rate program
The 2026-2027 fixed rate received was $1.999 based on 1000 gallons and automatic delivery.

Motion: Commissioner Barone moved to approve Russo's fixed rate pricing at $1.999 per gallon for 2026-2027, seconded by Commissioner Hansut
Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone)
Motion was carried.

Highland Fire District Policies will be approved and noted approved by Legal counsel with date of the revision.
Motion: Commissioner Long moved to approve all district policies are noted with comments – approved by Legal Counsel and the date for each.
Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone)
Motion was carried.

MCS Tech – Router quoted for $4906.20, this will be compatible with fiber optic network.
Motion: Commissioner Hansut moved to accept the new router for $4906.20, seconded by Commissioner Long
Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone)
Motion was carried.

MCS estimate for Monitor for $1359.98
After discussion it was determined, we do not need to purchase the computer – just provide a desk.
It was discussed to get pricing on the desk and chair and we will revisit

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Additional service from Revize for MEMBER ONLY section on website

The initial set up fee of $2000.00 and $500.00 thereafter to maintain the member section on the website.

Motion: Commissioner Long moved to approve the initial set up for the member only section on the website, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

Vote: 3 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain (Commissioner Barone) 1 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone)

Motion was carried.

Commissioner Election:

Commissioner Barone announced he will not be running for commissioner. He has spent 10 years on the board. During that time, the board purchased 5 fire apparatus. He asked the board to do due diligence, and ask questions. Commissioner Rizzo thanked Commissioner Barone for all he has done. Commissioner Barone was asked to be a capital project advisor and he will consider it. Commissioner Barone needed to leave.

The 2026 Annual Fire District Election is Tuesday, December 8, 2026, from 5:00PM – 9:00PM

RESOLUTION FOR BOARD OF ELECTION PERSONNEL

At a regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Highland Fire District, held at the Fire District Headquarters, 25 Milton Avenue, Highland, New York on the 13th day of October 2026 in the Town of Lloyd, at 6:00 o'clock, p.m.

PRESENT:

Commissioners **Kevin Rizzo**

Charly Long

Gina Hansut

Absent: **James Anzalone, Jr**

Alan Barone (departed at 7:15PM)

The following resolution was moved by Commissioner Charly Long and Seconded by Commissioner Gina Hansut:

WHEREAS Section 175-a of the Town Law provides for a system of registration for Fire District elections; and

WHEREAS a register of eligible Fire District voters must be prepared prior to the Fire District election; and

WHEREAS such register shall be prepared from names of persons who have registered with the County Board of Elections.

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RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following resident electors of the Highland Fire District are hereby appointed to constitute the Highland Fire District Board of Elections for the 2025 Annual Fire District election:

Theresa Gentilquore	-	Chairman
Candace Benson	-	Election Inspector
Rosanne Cooper	-	Election Inspector
	-	Alternate Election Inspector
Karen Martin	-	Ballot Clerk
Sandra Beal	-	Ballot Clerk

Whereupon the matter was put to a vote, the results being:

Commissioner Kevin Rizzo	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner James Anzalone, Jr.	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner Alan Barone	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner Charly Long	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner Gina Hansut	Aye / Nay / Absent

The Vote: 3- Yes, 0 - No, 0- Abstain, 2- Absent --- Resolution Adopted

Resolution Designating Date of Annual Election:

RESOLUTION OF THE HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT, IN THE TOWN OF LLOYD, NEW YORK, ADOPTED OCTOBER 13, 2026, DESIGNATING THE DATE OF ANNUAL ELECTION, DIRECTING PUBLICATION OF NOTICES, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH:

The following was moved by Commissioner Gina Hansut and Seconded by Commissioner Charly Long:

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT, IN THE TOWN OF LLOYD, IN THE COUNTY OF ULSTER, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Annual Election of the Highland Fire District, in the Town of Lloyd, in the County of Ulster, New York (herein called "Fire District") shall be held at Fire District Headquarters in the Hamlet of Highland, Town of Lloyd, Highland, New York in said Fire District, on December 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) and the polls shall remain open until 9:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) or as long as may be necessary to enable voters then present to cast their votes for electing two (2) Fire Commissioners. At said annual election, one (1) Fire District Commissioner for a term of five (5) years, commencing on the 1st day of

January 2027 and ending December 31, 20310, will be elected. The other for a term of two (2) years, commencing on the 1st day of January 2027, and ending December 31, 2028. All duly registered residents of the Highland Fire District shall be eligible to vote. The Secretary is directed to publish notices as required by law.

SECTION 2. In preparing such register, the inspectors of election shall comply with the following procedure:

(a) They shall adopt, use, or copy from, the registration list certified and supplied by the Ulster County Board of Elections the names appearing thereon of all persons residing in the Fire District and qualified to vote in such forthcoming Annual Election.

(b) The register for the Fire District shall include as a minimum the space for the name of the voter, his address within the Fire District and a space for his or her signature to be signed by the voter on election day.

SECTION 3. The Fire District Secretary Shall furnish the inspectors of election, at Fire District expense, with all necessary registration books, papers, equipment, and supplies.

SECTION 4. This resolution was adopted at least thirty (30) days prior to the Election.

SECTION 5. The Fire District Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to publish a legal notice informing the resident electors of the meeting of the Board of Elections once at least twenty-seven (27) days prior to the Election in the "New Paltz Times" and the "Southern Ulster Times", newspapers published for Highland, Ulster County, New York, and having a general circulation within the District and hereby designated as the official newspapers for such publication.

SECTION 6. The Chairman, Election Inspectors and Ballot Clerks are to be compensated for their services in preparing the registration records and attendance at the annual election.

SECTION 7. In Case any of the members appointed herein are unable or refuse to assume or perform the duties required of them, this Board of Fire Commissioners will appoint alternates who are resident electors.

SECTION 8. If clerical help is deemed necessary, this Board of Fire Commissioners will consider the appointment of such clerical persons upon request of the Chairman of the Fire District Board of Elections.

SECTION 9. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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Whereupon the matter was put to a vote, the results being:

Commissioner Kevin Rizzo	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner James Anzalone, Jr.	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner Alan Barone	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner Charly Long	Aye / Nay / Absent
Commissioner Gina Hansut	Aye / Nay / Absent

The Vote: 3- Yes, 0 - No, 0- Abstain, 2- Absent --- Resolution Adopted

Authorization to request a List of Eligible Voters for Annual Election

Motion: Commissioner Long authorized a letter be sent to Ulster County Board of Elections to request a list of eligible voters registered as of November 16, 2026 for the Annual Election to be held on December 8, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Hansut.

Vote: 3 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 2 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone & Barone)
Motion was carried.

File petitions for Commissioner are due on or before November 18, 2026. Such nominations for office shall be submitted in petition form signed by twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the Highland Fire District. Petitions are available through the District Secretary on Friday, October 16, 2026.

Dogs on premise: A request was received asking permission to bring their dog on premise. The boards discussion was this is a liability and no dogs on premise unless a working dog.

3 Room requests received:
Request from Highland Hose Co & Ladies Auxiliary for 12/6/2026 for the Hose Company's children Christmas party from 10-4PM, party is 1-3PM.

Request from Everett Erichsen, Ulster County Department of Emergency Services for November 4, 2026, from 11AM – 2PM for a lunch and learn meeting on ePCR's. Approx 100 participants. Set up requested for November 3, 2026, time to be determined.

Request from American Red Cross for 2027 blood drive dates: 1/15/27, 2/12/27, 3/15/27, 4/6/27, 5/14/27, 6/18/27

Motion: Commissioner Long moved to approve the 3 room requests, seconded by Commissioner Hansut
Vote: 3 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 2 Absent (Commissioner Anzalone & Barone)
Motion was carried.

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13. **Liaison to Town -** Supervisor Weiss
    Not present

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:
    Mike Gaffney advised 11 interested in the discovery program at the County level.

15. **Executive Session**: no requests

16. **Adjournment:**
    There being no further business, Commissioner Long moved to adjourn at 7:32PM , seconded by Commissioner Hansut.

    Respectfully submitted

    Leslie B. Benson
    District Secretary

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