

February 26, 2026 Regular Meeting West Sand Lake Board of Fire Commissioners

The regular meeting of the West Sand Lake Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:10pm by Commissioner Bell. Those present were Commissioner Bell, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Hogle and Commissioner Hull. Chief Crosier, Ed Heffern, Administrator as well as Secretary Poirier & Treasure Deutsch.

Treasurer's Report:

Building Account	\$1,352,717.62	General Checking Acct	\$ 16,754.39
Equipment Account	\$ 808,189.47	General Savings Acct	\$ 97,673.94
Total All Accounts: <u>\$2,275,737.59</u>			

Emergency Purchase Orders between meetings:

Emergency Purchase Orders issued between meetings:

Equipment Repair – U43 – sensor

Equipment Repair – 43-9 – siren box

Equipment Repair – 43-9 Water Leak/PM

Commissioner Hull made a motion to approve the emergency POs seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

The balance of the LOSAP Schwab One Brokerage account as of 01-31-2026 was \$1,195,049.39.

BST Audit:

The Treasurer discussed the outcome of the BST Audit – AUD preparation, addition of some new policies suggested by BST were discussed. It was recommended by the BST Auditor that the board set a policy for expenditures greater than \$5,000.00 be tracked. After an extensive discussion it was decided that Ed and Carrie would start a spreadsheet for 2026 with equipment purchases. Ed will print out inventory from their software and they will start with that.

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion for the audit to take a ding for not having this report for last year, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion that effective 01/01/2026 all expenditures over \$5,000.00 will be tracked and a report will be available for the 01/01/23 – 12-31-26 audit. This was seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Treasurer requested permission to spec a new desktop for the Chief as the current computer is still not working correctly. Carrie suggests a new computer be purchased and no one be allowed to use that computer besides the chief. Carrie also suggested that the existing Chief's computer could be wiped clean by White Wolf and a new install of Windows 11 could be done to make the computer serviceable for Officers to use. White Wolf agreed as there is nothing wrong with the actual hardware of the computer that this was a good option. White Wolf also stated that the board should not allow any one to log into personal One Drives or Google Doc's from district computers.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to issue a PO to White Wolf (or where Carrie finds desktop) NTE \$3,000 to purchase a new computer for Chief's desk and to wipe the old one and restore as new computer for Officer's use. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

Carrie will call White Wolf tomorrow to start the process.

Carrie reported that the Administrative Assistant had prepared the list of firefighters eligible for the Property Tax credit for the Town. After review of the list, **Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the property tax credit list, seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.**

YMCA usage was discussed.

Commissioner Ellis felt if people were not using, then they should be removed. One of the members had just been added and it was decided to let this go for this month and those not using the facility should be told they need to use it or they will be removed.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by **Commissioner Hull**. Motion carried.

Secretary's report:

The secretary provided the minutes for the regular meeting January 15, 2026. ***Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.***

The February/March calendar of events are as follows: Fire Company meeting, Organizational Meeting, Board meeting, Succession Planning workshop.

The Purchase Order list was reviewed by the board and Chief Crosier: No changes.

McNeil & Co. Policy – McNeil did an Audit of property insured by district at the end of last year. Steve Sawn spoke with Commissioner Bell about the structures that were showing with structures that had been demolished. Per the direction of Commissioner Bell, Steve Sawn notified the insurance company so that the properties were insured correctly. The changes to the policies were received, removing the buildings that were demolished and no longer on the property as well as deleting the 2007 Spartan that was sold.

Administrative Assistant Report:

Ed reported to the board that he had applied for an Infrastructure Fire Grant for \$1,000,000. He stated that the timeline to apply for the grant has been extended.

Ed stated that the Lexipol key fob kiosk system is up and running. Members are now to use to sign in for all calls and drills. Meetings and other functions and events will still be accounted for on the sign-in system. Members are no longer allowed to use the paper sign in system for calls and drills unless the kiosk system doesn't work.

Ed reported he had received a check for \$5.00 for a FOIL request for documentation on 43 Mall Fire. As there is no final report, there is nothing to send. He will notify the company requesting the information.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the Administrators report, seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

Chief Report:

Member Death - Firefighter / Fire-Police Gary Daus. Currently, no services are scheduled until the spring. We are uncertain whether we will be invited to participate. Further information will be shared as it becomes available.

Members Injured – 43 Mall Fire

During the 43 Mall Fire incident, four firefighters were injured:

- Lt. Alyssa Maiello
- Firefighter Gary Griffin
- Firefighter Lloyd Fox
- An East Schodack firefighter

Lt. Alyssa Maiello – A roof/overhang collapse occurred, resulting in hip, back, and rib injuries. She will remain on light duty for the next three weeks.

Firefighter Gary Griffin – Also struck during the roof/overhang collapse, sustaining a shoulder injury. He was treated and has since returned to full duty.

Notably, Firefighter Griffin acted heroically by pulling Lt. Maiello out from under the burning roof/overhang.

Firefighter Lloyd Fox – Sustained a back injury due to a slip and fall on ice at a fill site. He has returned to full duty.

East Schodack Firefighter – Sustained a shoulder injury due to a slip and fall at a separate fill site.

Gear Inspection

Our annual gear inspection is due. I have received an estimate from our previous vendor in the amount of **\$5,032.00**, which includes:

- \$136.00 per set, per hour
- \$290.00 mileage

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion to allocate \$10,000.00 for gear inspections and any associated repairs that need to be completed based on the results of the inspections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

We will also be submitting an insurance claim for two sets of turnout coats and pants that were damaged during the roof/overhang collapse. \$8,555 for gear and \$1,200 for helmets.

Commissioner Bell made the motion to issue a PO to MES for the replacement of the damaged gear 2 pants, 2- coats and 2-helmets not to exceed the amount of \$11,000.00. The cost of the damaged gear will be offset by the insurance company pays off the claim. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

Traffic Safety Sign was damaged during the fire.

Commissioner Bell made the motion to use the Pioneer card to order a replacement sign as well as an additional sign not to exceed the amount of \$800.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull Motion carried.

Commissioner Bell requested a list of damaged equipment from fire.

Hose and Ladder Testing

Hose and ladder testing will be conducted on **March 17, 2026**, at the station by **Safety First**, operated by Paul Glasser Jr.

Training & Event Requests

1. **Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade** – March 14, 2026

I am requesting permission to take units to participate in this event. Two chiefs' cars, one engine and the utility truck.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion giving the chief permission to take these vehicles out the fire district to participate in the parade. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion Carried

2. Tanker Class – Pittstown (April 18–19, 2026)

Requesting permission to send 43-9 to Pittstown for a tanker class, along with approval of **\$200.00** for registration. Captain Hogle has the class information.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for a PO in the amount of \$200.00 for registration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried

Equipment & Maintenance

Portable Light Batteries (43-6, U-43, R-43)

Six replacement batteries are needed. A quote was obtained from Thorpe Electric for **\$39.96 per pair**.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion that a PO be issued for Pioneer NTE \$123.00 for all six batteries. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.

CO/Smoke Detectors – Rec Room

Two CO/Smoke detectors were purchased to replace outdated and non-functioning units in the recreation room. Due to ongoing activities in that area, replacement was necessary for safety. The receipt has been placed in Carrie's/Joanne's mailbox.

R-43

Engineer Hartstein continues to relocate and mount equipment and is making steady progress on the apparatus.

U-43

The unit required replacement of four tire sensors (previously communicated). While at Quinn's, it was determined that brakes and rotors were also needed.

Total cost: \$673.31.

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion that a PO be issued to Quinn's NTE \$673.31 for the front brakes and rotors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

2016 Tahoe

Requires two new batteries.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to issue a PO for the purchase of two batteries at Quinn's NTE \$800.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion Carried.

43-9

The apparatus was sent out for repair and service. A hole was discovered in the flange pipe, which was causing water loss. Repairs are underway, along with annual maintenance. The parts to make the necessary repairs for the pump will not come in until on/or about May 2026. There was a discussion whether to leave 43-9 out of service until all the repairs are completed or put it back in service with no use of the pump.

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion to leave the vehicle out of service until all of the repairs are completed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

A previously approved Purchase Order not to exceed **\$8,000** remains in effect.

Purchase Requests

- EMT Workbooks/Books for six members enrolled in the EMT class.

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion for a PO to be issued to Amazon for the EMT workbooks be purchased NTE \$1,200.00. This is to include a set of EMT books and Workbooks to stay at the station for future reference. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

- EMS supplies

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to issue a PO to Bound Tree NTE \$300 for EMS supplies seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

- Strut Storage 72-inch Strut Storage to be fabricated by Firematic Supply that will work on the new truck.

Commissioner Hull made a motion for a PO to Firematic Supply NTE \$1,200.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.

CAD & Box Alarm Updates

Chief Crosier met with the Rensselaer County CAD Team to review our box alarms prior to final CAD entry. The following updates were made:

- Box 43-08 changed to 43-11 (08 designated as tanker box)
- Added 43-89 (Ice/Cold Water/Drowning incidents)
- Box 43-10 adjusted following the recent fire to ensure increased manpower for extended operations.

The RCBES CAD Committee has uploaded and activated our updated box alarms in the CAD system.

Key Fob Requests

Access requested for:

- Poestenkill
- Wynantskill
- East Greenbush
- Taborton
- Defreestville
- Hoags Corners

Temporary key fob requested for Adam Coonradt, EMT class instructor and Captain Lombardi for Little League. A discussion took place that the above can have access to the station. Administrative Assistant Heffern can allow access and unlock the doors and relock at a specific date and time if he knows when the EMT class will occur, Little League need access to the station. The mutual aid fire departments should have access to the station at the time of the mutual aid. Carrie will issue the key fobs.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to allow access to the above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried

Fire Alarm System – Firehouse

Because the rec room is now completed, there is a possibility of people in Hall downstairs. Commissioner Bell asked Chief Crosier to research fire alarm companies for the Hall. He contacted five vendors. Three responded:

- ADT – No longer installs fire alarm systems (ruled out).
- Doyle Security Systems – \$12,125 and \$40/month monitoring and \$9,045 and \$60/month monitoring.
- Capital Security – Submitted one proposal \$12,850 and \$48/month monitoring.

Doyle is out of Syracuse NY and Capital Security is local.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to do a permissive referendum for \$15,000.00 for the installation of a smoke and heat detection system with monitoring.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the West Sand Lake Fire District; that

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners have entered into a contract to purchase a Fire Alarm System for the Fire Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners have heretofore established a Capital Reserve Fund to be used for building improvements and repairs for buildings currently owned by the West Sand Lake Fire District; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost for the new Fire Alarm System Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) Dollars; and

WHEREAS, there is currently in the aforementioned Capital Reserve Fund a sum of money in excess of Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00);

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners at its scheduled meeting on February 26, 2026, to transfer from its Capital Reserve Fund the sum Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) for the purposes of paying for the new Fire Alarm System; said Resolution being adopted subject to a Permissive Referendum pursuant to Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law.

Commissioner Bell; Aye
Commissioner Ellis; Aye
Commissioner Deutsch; Aye
Commissioner Hogle; Aye
Commissioner Hull; Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel

With Captain Hogle enrolled in Fire Officer I, we have allowed him to utilize Car-3 (Command Vehicle) and respond as Car 4 until formally elected as Car 3.

Command Vehicle Maintenance

I am requesting approval to enroll the command vehicles in an unlimited washing program with Hoffman's Car Wash at a cost NTE **\$180.00 per month**, pending Board approval. The board discussed the matter. Treasurer stated that the funds could be accounted for in the Equipment Repairs account.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion that when the vehicles were being cleaned inside and out the chief must stay with the vehicle during the entire process. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion Carried

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the Hoffman's service and it should be put on Pioneer card NTE \$180 for command vehicle cleaning at Hoffman's. A list of services to be provided under this monthly fee be provided and included. This monthly cost will be added to the exemption list in the procurement policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion Carried

Member Recognition

Last month's recognition was awarded to Captain Hogle.

This month, without question, **Firefighter Gary Griffin** is being recognized for his heroic act of courage in rescuing Lt. Maiello during the burning roof collapse. In addition to his lifesaving actions, Firefighter Griffin has been actively engaging in additional training and is eager to expand his knowledge and experience. If I recall correctly, this was his first working structure fire.

Post 43 Mall Fire Meeting: A meeting was held with all of the mutual aid departments that responded to the 43 Mall fire to discuss the events of that day. It was an excellent meeting.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the Chief's report, seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

Communications: McNeil Ins Co, CAFDA, Aurora Inc.& two correspondences from NAMI Capital Region NY

Fire Company Report:

- New Active Members – James Tony & Kevin Pelitera. Kris Hogle back to Active
- New Associate Members – Mary Crosier. Caroline Ducharme upgraded to Associate.

Commissioner Bell Made a motion to accept the new members and member status changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried. Motion carried.

By-Laws: Continuing discussions are being held by the department for a revision of qualifications to become officers so that more members will be able to be qualified for the positions.

Rec Room- At the lasty monthly meeting there were discussions made on the rec room and INTERNET access to the rec room.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to issue a PO to Bearcom to wire an antenna for the Rec Room NTE \$1,500.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

Building & Grounds:

- Overhead Doors – Per Commissioner Hull no estimate received from company that performed the repair. Commissioner Hull is going to reach out to Leo's Overhear doors.
- Cintas - Decreased pricing – there was a discussion about the pricing and length of agreement.

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion to accept the new pricing provided that the length of agreement is only for 1 year. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

- Stark Tech – Maintenance Quote – *need reply by 02/20/26.*

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to accept the Maintenance Quote and issue a PO NTE \$1026.44. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.

- Discussion of new sink downstairs at Hall - A
- Discussion of possible bathroom downstairs at Hall – B
- Lawn Care Maintenance Bids.

Commissioner Hull will contact a plumber for estimates to present to the board at a future meeting

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion to do two Lawn Mowing bids, 1 – for lawn maintenance only. 2- lawn maintenance including the weed-whacking of fire hydrants. The ad will state that the bids will have to be

received by April Commissioners' Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried. Carrie will get the bid spec's done and put them on the website.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Estimate from Spectrum Environmental Associates \$535.00
- Spectrum Environmental Proposal. Discussion took place in reference to lead testing of the exterior of the fire hall prior to future painting.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to issue a PO to Spectrum Environmental NTE \$600.00 to have the paint on hall tested for lead. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.

- Fire Service Laws for Commissioners 2026 Manual.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to purchase the updated Fire Service Laws for Commissioners 2026 Manual not to exceed \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

- Mirabito Service for Hall Furnace. Discussion was made whether or not the district will pay the invoice due to the issue being the fuel tanks were empty and not an actual furnace issue and perhaps the bill should be sent to Hart Fuels. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting to see whether or not the district receives a bill from Mirabito.
- 50 year award for banquet

Commissioner Deutsch made a motion to issue a PO to Pioneer Card to purchase an award JL Lape for 50 years of service NTE \$300. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hull brought up the condition of the Command Vehicles. He stated that they need to always be clean inside.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Succession Planning workshop – 03/26/2026 @ 7pm

Next regular Board meeting – 3/19/2026 @ 7pm

AUDIT BILLS: Commissioner Deutsch made a motion to approve all bills as presented seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

Purchase Orders:

1. MES for 2 sets of firematic gear and helmets NTE \$11,000
2. Elliott Enterprises for gear inspection/repair NTE \$10,000
3. Pioneer Card for safety barriers from Safety Traffic Warehouse
4. Tanker class NTE \$200 – Get information from Chief Hogle.
5. Pioneer Card – to purchase 6 batteries from Thorpe Electric NTE \$123
6. Quinn's for Front Brakes & Rotors on U43 NTE \$700
7. Quinn's for 2 batteries for 2016 Tahoe (Car 3) NTE \$800
8. Amazon for EMT books NTE \$1,200
9. Capital Security NTE \$12,850
10. Bound Tree NTE \$300 for EMS supplies
11. Firematic Supply for 72" Strut storage NTE \$1,200
12. Bearcom NTE \$1,500 for Antenna for Rec Room reception
13. Pioneer Card for 50year award for JL NTE \$300

EXECUTIVE SESSION: - None

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn at 9:40pm, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne Poirier/Carrie Deutsch
Fire District Secretary*