

May 21, 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 7:03 pm by Commissioner Bell. Those present were Commissioner Bell, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Ellis, Commissioner Hogle and Commissioner Hull. Chief Crosier, Assistant Chief Hogle, Ed Heffern, Administrator as well as Secretary Poirier & Treasurer Deutsch.

Tony Hill from Firefly Admin. They are working on the LOSAP report, and it has been submitted for review. Tony discussed the status of the LOSAP plan since we changed Brokerage Firms as well as the profit margins and the contributions. These will be outlined in the report when completed. Tony also brought to the Board's attention that, although not directly related to LOSAP, fire associations and organizations such as FASNY are discussing compensation for firefighters. The current membership cost is approximately \$25,000 per year. The Board will need to consider whether it makes more sense to continue funding LOSAP for current service, provide a flat payment, or use a combination of both. To participate, an individual must remain a volunteer firefighter. Under the Internal Revenue Code, participation is allowed as long as compensation remains nominal. However, this is still a gray area. The Department of Labor generally considers a person a volunteer if they earn less than 20% of what a career firefighter in the same position would make. The bill that one day may become law may have a stipulation that you cannot do LOSAP and nominal compensation at the same time. Currently there is no statute that you cannot do one or the other. You will have to consider that you are spending roughly \$2,000.00 per member on LOSAP would it make more sense to stop doing that. The Board will have to continue to fund LOSAP for the fire fighters who are currently receiving LOSAP benefits. We are still a couple of years away from the fire fighters receiving LOSAP and the \$20.00 a year increase meeting that cap. Tony said he was doing a blog on their website Fireflyadmin.com.

Treasurer's Report:

Building Account	\$1,307,374.69	General Checking Acct \$	23,457.53
Equipment Account	\$ 808,583.70	General Savings Acct	\$ 831,377.24
Total All Accounts:	<u>\$2,971,064.52</u>		

The balance of the LOSAP Schwab One Brokerage account as of was \$1,210,021.41.

Emergency Purchase Orders between meetings: None

Budget Report: Treasurer discussed deficits for specific line items. Some funds need to be reallocated and a few new line items need to be created.

If the vendor needs to be changed to a PO please contact the Treasurer so that the vendor on the PO can be revised. Only board approval is required if amount needs to be changed on the PO.

BST audit is almost completed, they are just waiting for the Firefly report to be completed and Tony stated this would be completed by June 15th.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to accept the Treasurer report, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Secretary's report:

The secretary provided the minutes for the regular meeting April 16, 2026.

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

Calendar: BBQ's will be held on 05/28/25 & 06/25/2026. Correction was requested to be made to the calendar that the EMT class ends on June 1st. No Auxiliary breakfast in June, July or August they are not done in the summer.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to approve the Secretary report, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Administrative Assistant Report:

Members' files are being updated. Administrator will sit down with the chief and president to make sure that everyone is added. Chief mentioned that the screen freezes up. Administrator will inquire about this and get this resolved.

There are grant opportunities available and the administrator recommended that a professional grant writer be hired to apply for the available grants.

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

Chief Report:

Apparatus Updates

- **43-6** – Oil leak repairs and the remainder of the preventative maintenance have been completed.
- **R-43** – New struts and airbags have arrived and are currently being installed. R-43 is presently out of service while preventative maintenance is being completed.
- **Car-1** – The command vehicle was taken to Bear-Com for evaluation and repair. It was determined that the secondary battery located on the driver-side rear panel alongside the box insert had failed. Bear-Com recommended the vehicle be brought to DeNooyer, as the repair may have been covered under warranty. The vehicle remained at DeNooyer for three days; however, it was determined that the battery warranty expired in March. DeNooyer then recommended the vehicle be taken to Upstate Plow, where the lighting and box system had originally been installed. Currently, repairs are being postponed as the lower warning lights have unexpectedly resumed functioning.
-

Commissioner Bell made a motion for PO to Upstate Plow NTE \$1,000.00 for repair of the running board lights, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

- **Car-2** – Upon startup, the command vehicle produces a loud noise believed to be related to a fan assembly. Permission is requested to send the vehicle to Quinn's for diagnosis and repair, not to exceed \$1,500.

Commissioner Bell made a motion for PO to Quinns Motor Car NTE \$1,500.00 for diagnosis and repair of Car 2 loud noise, seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

Events & Community Engagement

The recent **Touch-a-Truck Event** was a great success. It was reported that our apparatus and information table were among the most visited attractions at the event. Additionally, the department received an application from a prospective member, which was read at the last meeting.

Parades & Upcoming Events

The department is scheduled to participate in the following upcoming events:

- Town of Sand Lake Memorial Day Parade
- Town of North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade
- Town of Berlin 4th of July Parade

Training Opportunities

The **NYS AFC Conference in Syracuse** is approaching June 10th – June 13th. Permission is requested to utilize the command vehicles for a day trip to attend the conference and apparatus show.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to allow use of command vehicles for a day trip to attend the NYSAFC Conference in Syracuse, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

- Requesting approval for **Capital Technical Rescue and Safety Consultants** to conduct training for members on the department's new struts and airbags. Estimated cost is **\$900.00**, which includes:
 - Two-hour drill night session
 - Four-hour Saturday hands-on training session
 -

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for PO to Capital Technical & Safety Consultants NTE \$900.00 for training sessions, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

Operational Notice:

- **Brookside Housing Hydrant Issue** – A diver was deployed to inspect the hydrant system intake and discovered the intake strainer had been crushed and heavily obstructed with silt, leaves, and marine growth. Diver is currently preparing materials and cost estimate to extend the intake pipe and replace the damaged strainer. Prior to repairs being completed, all three hydrants on the Brookside hydrant system will be backflushed.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for PO to Pioneer/Fire Hose Direct NTE \$500.00 for strainer dry hydrant repair, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for PO to Home Depot NTE \$750.00 for PVC cap for dry hydrant repair, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for PO to Ed McMahon NTE \$1000.00 for diver for dry hydrant, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

- Chief Crosier would like to cancel Car 2 and Car 3 Hoffman Car wash memberships as their vehicles cannot go through but would like to purchase the passes at Hoffman's for single passes using the pioneer car no to exceed 4 washes per month per vehicle.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to cancel the Hoffman Automatic Car Wash monthly subscription and purchase 4 brushless car wash passes per month per vehicle, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

- On 5/19/26 we had a vehicle fire extending to a residence on Apple Lane – 2 firefighters were injured; one burn injury and the other a hand injury. One went and was checked out and is in good health. This fire was very challenging as the vehicle had a Lithium Ion Battery in the rear seat which caused a thermal runaway, we deployed all our foam as well as Averill Parks so we will have to replenish ours as well as Averill Parks Chief Hogle has the Cost.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for PO to MES NTE \$2719.30 for 10 5-gallon pails of Class B Foam, seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

- This coming Sunday the Town Fire Chief's from all three departments are going to meet and see how we can consolidate services and purchases

Member Recognition

- **Member of the Month:** May Cara Tavella – June Jarod Hogle

Purchase Requests

The following purchase requests are submitted for approval:

- Property/Tool ID Stickers from Emergency Service Custom Decals utilizing the Pioneer card – **NTE \$200.00 (includes free shipping)**

Commissioner Hogle made a motion for PO to Emergency Service Custom Decals NTE \$200.00 for Property & Tool ID Stickers seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

- Purchase of screws, lag bolts, and miscellaneous hardware for new cribbing, new Garden Hose for bays from Home Depot using the department Home Depot card within the allotted monthly limit of **\$500.00**

Commissioner Hogle made a motion for PO to Purchase Order to Home Depot NTE \$500.00 for screws, lag bolts and misc. hardware for cribbing and new garden hose for bays, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried

- Approval to have two sets of turnout gear damaged at the Lily Lane Fire in Averill Park repaired by **Finley and Mulvena Gear Inspection Company – PO NTE \$500.00**

Commissioner Bell made a motion for PO to Finley & Mulvena, Inc/Elliott Enterprises NTE \$500.00 for inspection and gear repair, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion for PO to MES NTE \$10,000.00 for new gear if the gear is not able to be repaired, seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.

- Three (3) Traffic Safety Wands for apparatus bay door backing operations from Traffic Safety Warehouse utilizing the Pioneer card – **NTE \$80.00**

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for PO to Traffic Safety Warehouse NTE \$80.00 for 3 Traffic Safety Wands seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

- Two (2) Halligan Bars from The Public Safety Store utilizing the Pioneer card – **NTE \$550.00**

Commissioner Bell made a motion for PO to Public Safety Store NTE \$550.00 for 2 Halligan Bars, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

- Request PO for polo Chief Hogle to Wicked Smart NTE \$150.00.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for PO to Wicked Smart NTE \$150.00 for polo for Chief Hogle, seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

- Request PO for Heavy Rescue Grip Hoist to Capital Technical Rescue NTE \$4,700.00.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for PO to Capital Technical Rescue NTE \$4,700.00 for Heavy Rescue Grip Hoist, seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

- Request PO for three 6" male and 2 ½" female adapters NTE \$750.00 from Garrison.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion for PO to Garrison NTE \$750.00 for three 6" male and 2 ½" female adapters, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

- Request PO for 3" 15' Pony Hose from Rescue Equipment NTE \$750.00.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion for PO to Rescue Equipment NTE \$750.00 for 3" 15' Pony Hose, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Motion carried.

- A list of no longer used and excess equipment is being put together to sell on Fire Equipment site.

Commissioner Hogle made a motion to approve the chief's report. Seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.

Communications:

FASNY Training Symposium, CAFDA Bulletins

Company Report:

- 4 Auxiliary Members were voted in as Associate Members
- 1 Active New Member.
- Firefighter of the Month – Cara Tavella.
- Fire Department picnic is scheduled for July 26th at East Greenbush Fire Department's Pavillion. Details to follow.
- Family Fun Day for the community and Fire Prevention is in the planning process to be held in August. Details to follow.
- Poestenkill for the banquet – this has been scheduled for January 16, 2027.
- Auxiliary will begin painting the kitchen.

Building & Grounds:

1. Due to employee injuries All *Type Professional Door Service Inc* notified Commissioner Hull that there will be a delay in performing the service to the station bay doors. As soon as the company's staff are backup they will perform the service as soon as possible.
2. Mirabito performed air conditioning service. Mirabito informed Commissioner Hull that they did not have the required air filters needed to complete the service. Commissioner Hull informed Mirabito tech as part of the air conditioning service that they should bring the required replacement filter. Commissioner Hull also informed Mirabito tech that we are still waiting for a knob for the new furnace installed at the fire station.
3. Ramp on Fire Hall needs to be repaired due to drop in level of the concrete ramp. Need to get a quote for foam to raise and relevel concrete ramp. Commissioner Hull will be contacting Adirondack Basement Systems for a quote on the repairs Emergency ASAP.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion for a PO to Adirondack Basement Systems NTE \$5,000.00 for repair of the Fire Hall ADA ramp seconded by Commissioner Hogle. Motion carried.

4. Per Assistant Chief Gazeley Bonded Concrete is donating 3 concrete barriers to the Fire District to be placed on the Hannaford side of the property right behind fire station.

Commissioner Bell brought up that the fire district is meeting with PT Mason Construction to revisit new construction of a fire station or at minimum a metal building behind the current fire station to store equipment etc. Commissioner Bell is requesting a permissive referendum in the amount of \$125,000.00 to start the process, The District

Administrator questioned whether an RFP needed to be put out. Commissioner Bell requested the Treasurer contact the Boards Attorney to inquire if special professional service needed to be done by RFP.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to issue a Permissive Referendum to utilize funds from the Building Capital Reserve account in the amount of \$125,000.00 to hire professional services, seconded by Commissioner Hull. Motion carried.

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 for professional services to revisit construction of a building; 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 these services is One Hundred Twenty-Five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00) Dollars; and

WHEREAS there is currently in the aforementioned Capital Reserve Fund a sum of money in excess of One Hundred Twenty-Five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00);

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners at its scheduled meeting on May 21, 2026, to transfer from its Capital Reserve Fund the sum One Hundred Twenty Five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00) for the purposes of paying for these professional services; 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Planet Fitness needs to start with 5 members enrolling in their membership in order to receive the corporate rate for the Black membership of \$25.00 a month. As with the YMCA Planet Fitness, will supply the fire district with a monthly report on the members' usage.
- Write letter to New York State to request that their investigation of the 43 Mall fire be completed and signed off so that the cleaning up of the site can be completed.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Purchase Orders:

1. Purchase Order to Upstate Plow NTE \$1,500.00 repair running lights Car 1
2. Purchase Order to Quinns Automotive NTE \$1000.00 diagnosis and repair of Car 2
3. Purchase Order to Capital Technical & Safety Consultants NTE \$900.00 for training sessions
4. Purchase Order to Pioneer/Fire Hose Direct NTE \$500.00 for strainer dry hydrant repair
5. Purchase Order to Home Depot NTE \$750.00 for PVC cap for dry hydrant.
6. Purchase Order to Ed McMahon NTE \$1000.00 for diver to repair dry hydrant
7. Purchase Order to MES NTE \$2719.30 for 10 5-gallon pails of Class B Foam.

8. Purchase Order to Emergency Service Custom Decals NTE \$200.00 for Property & Tool ID Stickers
9. Purchase Order to Home Depot NTE \$500.00 for screws, lag bolts misc hardware for cribbing and new garden hose for bays.
10. Purchase Order to Finley & Mulvena, Inc/Elliott Enterprises NTE \$500.00 for inspection and gear repair.
11. Purchase Order to MES NTE \$10,000.00 2 sets of gear if gear is not able to be repaired.
12. Purchase Order to Traffic Safety Warehouse/Pioneer Card NTE \$80.00 for 3 safety wands.
13. Purchase Order to Wicked Smart NTE \$150.00 for polo for Chief Hogle.
14. Purchase Order to Capital Technical Rescue NTE \$4,700.00 Heavy Rescue Grip Hoist.
15. Purchase Order to Garrison NTE \$750.00 for Adapters to flush hydrants.
16. Purchase Order to Rescue Equipment NTE \$750.00 for 3" 15 ft pony hose.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Succession Planning workshop – TBD Due to the current commitments on the calendar the next meeting has yet to be scheduled.

Next regular Board meeting 06/18/2026 @ 7pm

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

9:05 PM - Commissioner Hogle made a motion to go into Executive Session seconded by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried.

9:11 PM – Out of Executive Session.

The executive session was to discuss a personnel issue. No action was taken.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn at 9:11 pm, seconded by Commissioner Deutsch. Motion carried.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne Poirier
Fire District Secretary*