

**St. Paul Boulevard Fire District**  
**Minutes of the 1231st Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners**  
**Cooper Road Firehouse, 433 Cooper Road**  
**October 28, 2024**

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The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairperson Cooke

**Attendance:**

Chairperson Cooke, Commissioner Skelton, Commissioner Gartland, Commissioner Shafer, Administrator/Secretary Riley, Deputy Treasurer Sienkiewicz, Acting Treasurer Ben Skelton, Chief Stavalone, Battalion Chief Christian, Lieutenant Mackaravitz, and Firefighters Metcalfe, Reddy, Christian Shafer, Rhoney, and Rinch.

**Excused:** Treasurer Igor Zubrzycki,

**Pledge:** The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Cooke.

**Public Appearances:** Jule Rayburn and Bob Metcalfe

**Moment of Silence:** A moment of silence was held in memory of all past members of the St. Paul Blvd. Fire District.

Chairperson Cooke recognized former Firefighter Jule Rayburn. Jule wanted to recognize Chief Stavalone for arranging several local fire departments in honoring a local World War II veteran US Army PVT Robert W. Cash who died on July 16, 1942, and whose remains were recently discovered in a prison camp in the Philippines. His funeral services were on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at the Harris funeral home in our Fire District. There was a procession from the funeral home to White Haven Memorial Cemetery where PVT Cash was buried with full military honors. Chief Stavalone arranged for every highway overpass to have a fire department in salute to PVT Cash as his funeral passed by. The Board thanked the Chief for this action.

Chairperson Cooke then recognized Firefighter Bob Metcalfe representing as President of IAFF Local 4176 who requested to address the Board. President Metcalfe prepared a written statement (which is included with these minutes). The St. Paul Local union arranged for a fundraiser to support the local Veterans Outreach Center with a "Salute to Service" tee shirt to be worn on-duty during the month of November. The tee shirt would have the St. Paul and IAFF patch as part of the design. President Metcalfe showed Chief Stavalone the design and requested approval. The Chief initially approved the request, however, after the Chief informed Commissioner Weaver of the request it was determined that the tee shirt could not have the IAFF logo on it.

In summary, this decision has caused some members to be very displeased with what was to be a fundraiser for the local veterans' organization. The orders were placed with up to \$1,200 expected to be raised.

Following President Metcalfe's statement, a lengthy discussion followed between several Board members and the Union President.

Commissioner Shafer spoke about how St. Paul has a strict uniform policy that should be adhered to. Additionally, allowing the international union logo on these shirts will further alienate the volunteers. He is not in favor of this decision and further believes the Chief should have come to the Board to discuss this. The Chief said this was not intended to be a wholesale change to our uniform policy. It is a fund-raiser activity for the month of November.

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Commissioner Gartland stated that he is fine with them and supports the Chief decision with the best interest of the entire fire department. Commissioner Skelton also does not oppose this union activity. Further he is confident the Chief will and has had the established uniform standard being followed.

Upon conclusion a motion was made by Commissioner Gartland and seconded by Commissioner Skelton to authorize Local 4176 members and other fire department members to wear the tee shirt for the month of November. This motion was carried out 3-2 with Commissioners Shafer and Weaver not in favor.

**Prior Minutes:**

There are two sets of minutes that need final approval. The September 30, 2024, Commission Meeting, and the minutes of the 2025 Budget Hearing of October 15th. These have been distributed previously and are in the Board members' folders. Chairperson Cooke moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and asked if the Board members had sufficient time to review the minutes prior to tonight. All members responded affirmatively. Chairperson Cooke asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Shafer and seconded by Commissioner Gartland to approve the minutes of September 30th and October 15th, 2024. This motion was carried 5-0.

**Correspondence and Petitions:**

**Incoming:**

From the Town of Irondequoit, the three-year renewal Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) between the Town and The St. Paul Boulevard Fire District for Public Works services including paving and plowing services. This agreement was adopted by the Town Board on October 15, 2024, and signed by Supervisor Evans on October 23<sup>rd</sup> (copy is included with these minutes). Approval is needed for Chairman Cooke to sign the IMA. A motion was made by Commissioner Weaver and seconded by Commissioner Shafer to authorize Chairperson Cooke to enter this three-year IMA with the Town of Irondequoit. This motion was carried 5-0.

**Outgoing:** None

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Stavalone reported on the following items:

- Year-To-Date fire responses are 1,597. Nothing of significance since last month's meeting.
- At the request of Chairperson Cooke, I have investigated the advanced cancer screening that is offered by United Diagnostic Services. The preliminary cost is \$325 per person. After the initial screening it is recommended that it be done every three years. The Chief has an additional consultation with this company on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The new cascade system is now installed and operational. We have been training our members. The Town has notified me that the reimbursement check will be sent after November 6<sup>th</sup>.

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- The free new winter jackets for the kids from Operation Warmth, that St. Paul have been distributing to several community organizations is complete. The recipients were extremely appreciative.
- Probationary Firefighter Lepiane will be graduating from the State Fire Academy on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The academy Instructors have been very pleased with his performance.
- Likewise Probationary Firefighter Tim Perkins is doing well in the County Firefighter 1 class. He is sent to graduate on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Monroe Community College.
- The Chief would like an Executive Session at tonight's meeting on a personal matter.

**Report of the Attorney:** No Report.

**Report of Secretary: (see Report of District Administrator).** No Report.

**Communications & Information Technology:** No Report.

**Apparatus, Equipment & Insurance:**

Commissioner Skelton reported on the following:

- The new Squad 157 has been delivered.

**Personnel:** No Report

**Strategic and Long-Term Planning and Research:** No Report.

**Report of District Administrator:**

- Administrator Riley is preparing the timetable for the upcoming 2024 Fire District Election which is set for December 10th, 2024, at the Cooper Road fire station. The Board needs to adopt a motion for the hours of voting to take place. Commissioner Shafer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Weaver to approve the voting hours from 1pm – 9pm. The motion was carried 5-0.
- Administrator Riley asked for approval to appoint the 2024 Election Committee for the upcoming Fire Commissioner election. He recommends William Doran as Chairperson, and Peter Nashburn, Katha Patasin and Ruthanne Campbell as election clerks. A \$100 stipend would be paid for their services. A motion by Commissioner Weaver 2nd by Commissioner Gartland to appoint these individuals. Motion carried 5-0.
- A letter will be sent to the Monroe County Board of Elections requesting a current voter registration.
- As has been previously approved by the Fire District, there is no absentee balloting.
- The next Monroe County Fire District Officers' dinner/meeting is Thursday, November 21st at Red Fidele's Brook House restaurant.

**Properties / Building Strategic Planning Items:**

Commissioner Gartland reported on the following items.

- Permission was given to Genrich to use the rear parking lot on Nov. 7-9 for their holiday event.

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Approval from the Board to surplus the following obsolete equipment no longer needed for the Fire District:

- 1 John Deere Tractor Mower ID # MOX320A157911
- 1 Honda Push Mower Serial #MZCG9368246 with St. Paul property tag10000146.
- 1 Toro push mower
- 1 Stihl handheld blower

A motion by Commissioner Gartland 2nd by Commissioner Cooke to surplus the above equipment. Motion carried 5-0.

**Reading of the Bills:**

Acting Treasurer Ben Skelton presented abstract #19 and abstract #20 to be approved for payment (copy filed with these minutes).

The Acting Treasurer reported total expenses for the month were \$ 543,759.64. Notable expenses for this month to bring to the Board's attention are \$7,460.18 & \$2,117.88 to RG&E for two months of utilities, \$6,854.69 to Rochester Yacht Club for the inspection banquet, \$145,290.00 (Town grant award) to Jerome Fire Equipment for the new cascade system, \$59,343.76 to Van Bortle Ford for the new Squad 157, and \$3,700 to Finger Lakes Dairy Service for purchase (State contract bid) for the new Zero Turn Lawn mower.

The Acting Treasurer also reviewed the income revenue for the month which totaled \$ 11,145.41 which includes \$ 10,090.22 revenue for our Certificate of Deposit and \$ 1,055.19 for the cell tower rental. All financial statements/reports are included with these minutes.

After a review of the abstracts by the Acting Treasurer and with the Board's review, a motion by Commissioner Cooke and seconded by Commissioner Gartland to approve the bills after proper auditing by the Board was carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Skelton and seconded by Commissioner Gartland to adopt the following Resolutions.

**RESOLUTION #1**  
**OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS ST. PAUL BOULEVARD**  
**FIRE DISTRICT TO OVERRIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR THE**  
**2025 BUDGET**

*WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the St. Paul Boulevard Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and*

*WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the St. Paul Boulevard Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 15, 2024, and*

*WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 15, 2024, at said budget hearing, and*

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*WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2025 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy: and*

*WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows: A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves a determination to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 budget only in order to permit an annual real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00% increase in said tax levy and result in a final annual fire district budget in the amount of \$ 5,835,540.00.*

*The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon a roll call the vote was as follows:*

*Chairperson Shafer AYE  
Commissioner Gartland AYE  
Commissioner Skelton AYE  
Commissioner Cooke AYE  
Commissioner Weaver AYE*

*This resolution passed 5-0 and was approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the St. Paul Blvd. Fire District on October 28, 2024. The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.*

*By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners  
St. Paul Boulevard Fire District  
Edward J. Riley, Secretary*

**RESOLUTION #2**  
**OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS ST. PAUL BOULEVARD**  
**FIRE DISTRICT TO APPROVE FINAL BUDGET FOR 2025 THAT**  
**EXCEEDS REAL PROPERTY TAX CAP**

*WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the St. Paul Boulevard Fire District must adopt a proposed budget for 2025 and estimate of fund balances in preparation for the annual fire district budget hearing and did so in preparation for the budget hearing, and*

*WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the St. Paul Boulevard Fire District held the annual fire district budget hearing on notice to the public on October 15, 2024, and*

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*WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budget and comments received on the proposed budget on October 15, 2024, at said budget hearing, and*

*WHEREAS, the Board has determined that that financial needs of the fire district and fire department for fiscal year 2025 cannot be supported by a budget that would comply with the real property tax cap established pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law as the proposed budget for 2025 calls for a real property tax levy that will exceed the real property tax cap permitting only a 2.00 % increase in said tax levy: and*

*WHEREAS, Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law provides as follows: A local government may adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that is greater than the tax levy limit for the coming fiscal year, not including any levy necessary to support the expenditures pursuant to subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph g of subdivision two of this section, only if the governing body of such local government first enacts, by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, a local law to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only, or in the case of a district or fire district, a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of such body, to override such limit for such coming fiscal year only.*

*WHEREAS, previously at this meeting this Board of Fire Commissioners passed a resolution to override the real property tax cap for the 2025 Budget.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves the Final Budget for the St. Paul Boulevard Fire District for 2025 attached hereto and made a part hereof in the amount of \$ 5,835,540.00.*

*The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon a roll call the vote was as follows:*

*Chairperson Shafer AYE  
Commissioner Gartland AYE  
Commissioner Skelton AYE  
Commissioner Cooke AYE  
Commissioner Weaver AYE*

*This resolution passed 5-0 and was approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the St. Paul Blvd. Fire District on October 28, 2024. The resolution was thereupon duly declared to have been adopted.*

*By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners  
St. Paul Boulevard Fire District  
Edward J. Riley, Secretary*

**Old Business**

**New Business:**

Commissioner Gartland wanted to recognize and thank Chief Stavalone and Firefighter Ryan Nuygen for the tremendous work done with the recent Open House. He heard several positive comments from several residents who were in attendance.

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**Executive Session:**

Chairperson Cooke then moved the meeting to an Executive Session at the request of Fire Chief Stavalone on a personnel matter. The Executive Session started at 6:21 pm. This Executive Session was terminated at 6:34 pm.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the October 28, 2024, meeting was moved for adjournment by Commissioner Weaver and second by Commissioner Shafer at 6:42 pm. Motion was carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward J. Riley  
District Administrator/Secretary

NOT YET OFFICIAL