

**Highland Fire District
Regular Meeting
May 12, 2026
7:00PM – St #1 – 25 Milton Avenue, Highland**

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

Chairman Rizzo called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 PM, led the salute to the flag, and asked for a moment of silence for Life Member, Kevin Parker. Chairman Rizzo welcomed everyone to the regular meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Rizzo asked for approval of the regular meeting minutes on **April 14, 2026**.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve minutes from April 14, 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 4/24/26 – 5/12/26

Prepays	\$ 5,008.32
Late arrivals	\$ 2,325.17
Abstract	\$ <u>83,103.75</u>
Subtotal	\$ <u>90,437.24</u>
Hold inv	\$ <u>-610.50</u>
Total	\$ 89,826.74

Chairman Rizzo asked for approval to pay the bills as reviewed by Commissioners Anzalone, Commissioner Long and Chief DiMetro on May 11 & 12, 2026, totaling \$89,826.74 from April 24, 2026-May 12, 2026.

Motion: Commissioner Long moved to approve payment of the abstract of bills totaling \$89,826.74 seconded by Commissioner Hansut

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

Motion was carried.

3. **Correspondence:**

- Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, May 15, 2026, from 12 noon – 5PM
- Letter from Chief DiMetro regarding member resignation – FF Coleman and a member change of status letter – E Erichsen
- Letter from the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York – Open Director position (AFDSNY Region 2)
- Emailed all commissioners LOSAP Annual Report from Firefly, they will be here on June 9th
- Town of Lloyd Town Board - Notice of Public Hearing – May 20, 2026, at 7:00PM – consider adopting Local Law A-2026, entitled “2026 Zoning Code Amendments”.
- Submission to the Annual Memorial Service for AFDSNY – Fire district officer – recognized at the October 2026 Annual Memorial Service
- Flowers for St 1 & 2 ordered from Sorbello’s – pick up will be 5/15/26.
- Letter from Highland Water & Sewer District, Important information about your drinking water. Commissioner Rizzo explained the information received.

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

Highland Hose Co. No. 1 Ladies Auxiliary requested October 16 & 17 for Penny Social fundraiser from 5PM on 10/16/26 - 10PM on 10/17/26.

Chairman Rizzo wanted to clarify the refundable deposit, when it comes to the Ladies Auxiliary and Highland Hose Co. No. 1, they are tenants and they are not required to submit a room deposit. They are not considered an outside agency. All commissioners present agreed.

4. **Committee Reports:**

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

V-Fire Grant – No update received, we haven’t been denied and are still in the queue. Hoping to have more information Mid-June.

Signs: Commissioner Long wants to confirm number of posts, get installed. The spots will be lined by Frank P. This will be completed by June 1, 2026.

St #1 Monument – Commissioner Long will be getting quotes to redo this area as we configure the mailbox.

The hydrant needs to be raised up.

IT Report: Technology Upgrade Project – St#2 – items still need to be installed. Equipment was discussed for installation with monitor for IaR screen mounted above door to bays.

St #1 - ViewSonic and a wall mount received and will be installed shortly. If this is a valuable tool, we may look to get them for community room.

Building & Grounds, St #2 - Commissioner Rizzo and Anzalone Technology Upgrade project was discussed.

Frank Banks fixed the blocks and mulched

5. **Recruiting & Retention**: Commissioners Rizzo and Anzalone Ulster County is hosting a meeting on 5/27/26 at Wallkill High School regarding nominal compensation. A local fire department could compensate active members up to 20% of average career firefighters salary. This would fall on local municipality to set guidelines on compensation. We are going to learn about the bill; nothing has passed yet. This is in the infancy stage, nothing being done, we are going to learn and study. Commissioners need to register independently. We want to keep an eye on what's going on so we can make an informed collective decision for the future. Commissioner Rizzo wants to expand the committee Adding Chief DiMetro, A/C Gallagher and Lt DeMaio. The Board agreed to add an additional 3 members.

6. **Insurance/Worker's Compensation**: Commissioners Barone and Hansut Commissioner Hansut asked about the increased value of \$200,000.00 on selected apparatus and if we want to move forward with this increase or stay where we are. She spoke with Commissioner Barone, and he is OK to move forward.

Resolution to make available the coverage provided by GML Section 209-I (1-b) – Covered to mutual aid without being called and if we adopt, we will have SOP's. At this point, we want to reach out to the attorney, so we can make an informed decision. We want a rule or SOP to guide all sides of the resolution.

7. **Service Awards**: Focus Wealth Management will join us on June 9th to discuss the financial portfolio. They will also present the Ladders to Learning Scholarship.
8. **Ulster County Association of Fire Districts**: Next meeting is 5/21/26 at Ulster Hose #5.
9. **Treasurer's Report**: Treasurer DeMaio reported for April 2026
- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Income: | \$ 39,432.02 |
| Expenses: | \$ 45,748.03 excludes TAHOE from 2025 surplus |
| Net for month | \$ -(6,316.01) |

No red flags, and no issues perceived or expected but dependent on the station #2 project expenses.

INVESTMENTS:

CD 2026 apparatus reserve allocation \$384,464.70 matures 9/8
 CD 2026 bldg reserve allocation 24,100.00 matures 9/8
 Apparatus Reserve CD: \$199,380.08, 3/15%, matures 9/8/26
 Building Reserve CD: \$199,380.08, 3.15%, matures 9/8/26

XXXX5638 SCBA Reserve CD \$25,000.00, matures 9/8
 XXXX5192 Excess Funds CD \$375,000.00, matures 5/28/2026
 Cash Flow CD: \$504,010.78, 3.20%, matured 5/5 and deposited into MM

Still outstanding from last month/year – Treasury Direct – no movement yet.

The board approved the Treasurer to look for recommendations or a better option for computer services.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the treasurer to seek better options, keep local and potentially find 3 options, seconded by Commissioner Hansut.

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

Motion was carried.

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

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to accept the treasurer's April 30, 2026, preliminary report, seconded by Commissioner Hansut.

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

Motion was carried.

10. **Chief's Report:**

Report emailed to all commissioners and if there are any questions, please let him know.

Three (3) members are attending training at the NYSAFC show June 9-12th in Syracuse. The training will be 16 hours on hands training for 2 days. They will be taking 31-80.

Assistant Chief Peura will be taking Fire Instructor class in Albany on two weekends, 5/29-5/31 and 6/6-6/7.

Apparatus requests for 31-80 and 31-A and repairs discussed.

11. **Old Business:**

Mailbox Update– We have the blessing to change and will decide the number. The Police Department will retain 25 Milton Ave.

Decision/Motion: We will purchase the mailbox, location will be by the red rocks, property bolt in concrete...we will get quotes to landscape around. Over the course of 365 days, we will transition to get mail delivered to new address.

HFD Website: We are anticipating the website to be started June or July – once the Town's site is completed. We are in compliance, piggybacking from the Town.

Fiber Optic: The Town board is aware, and this is being worked on

Capital Project: The next meeting planned is May 18, 2026, at 7PM. We will reschedule to Tuesday, May 26, 2026 @ 7PM, St #1 and discuss design A or B. We will invite Peter Cirillo, once confirmed – we will publish the notice.

12. **New Business:**

Cell Phone Reimbursement for 2026 – previous resolution that was approved on 4/11/23 was read. Automatic basis being issued every month for 31-A, 31-B, 31-C and 31-4 for the stipend of \$60 per month.

Discussion: cell phone reimbursement to chief officers as duties changed or cover all officers for personal phones. We will reach out to legal counsel to see what the district can do and table this to next month.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to keep business as usual and cover those that pay for their cell, seconded by Commissioner Long

Vote: 4 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 1 Absent (Commissioner Barone)
Motion was carried.

Designated Parking for Community Room requests: Commissioner Rizzo suggested for large parties being held here, more than 20 cars, we request the entity to have a person park/direct cars and part of an initiative to re-engage past members perhaps we can have life members volunteer to park cars. This will be checked on for coverage.

Surplus items: We will prepare a list of items over \$200.00 to discuss prior to disposal. We will coordinate a dump run once complete.

Motion: Commissioner Hansut moved to offload obsolete copier at St #2 with proper disposal, seconded by Commissioner Long

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

Highland Hose Co. No. 1 Ladies Auxiliary Room request:

Ladies request Friday, 10/16 – Saturday, 10/17/26 for their penny social fundraiser

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the ladies request for 10/16-10/17/26 for their fundraiser, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

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

Purchase of Ice Machine:

Commissioner Anzalone discussed with the Chief and Chairman an ice machine

Three (3) quotes received:

Dutchess Restaurant Equipment - \$6708.00

Katom \$6203.00

WebstaurantStore - \$6203.00

Commissioner Anzalone said Dutchess Restaurant is \$500.00 more but includes delivery and set-up and he felt this would be an asset. The Hose Company can use it, and all have production capacity up to 520 lbs. of ice.

We would establish rules

We can install it close to washer

We have purchased other items from Dutchess Restaurant and warranty included and they are close for service.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the purchase of the ice maker for \$6708.00 from Dutchess Restaurant Equipment seconded by Commissioner Hansut

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

Motion was carried

Travel Policy: Commissioner Rizzo said the current travel policy from 2008 needs to be revamped. We want to discuss meal reimbursement as we have members training next month.

Chief DiMetro has 3 members attending training in Syracuse, 2 conducting training and 1 class training for work – total of 6. Chief DiMetro would like to take them out to dinner one evening (no alcohol as per policy).

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo moved to approve Chief DiMetro to take 6 people to dinner for an amount up to \$1200.00, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone.

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

Motion was carried

Per Diem Rate: Meals - we need to rewrite but offer a temporary per diem rate plan with upcoming trip of 3 members in Syracuse, up to \$75.00 allowance per day for meals. Members must keep receipts and submit them for reimbursement. At this training breakfast is complimentary and lunch is provided.

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo moved to approve of paying a per diem rate of \$75.00 for the 3 members attending training in Syracuse, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone

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

Motion was carried

Member Status Change:

Letter from Chief DiMetro regarding Everett Erichsen changing his status from Exempt to Active Member

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to accept the letter, and he will be in service upon his physical, seconded by Commissioner Hansut

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

Motion was carried

Tool Box for Cage: Chief DiMetro requested a triple-bank roll cab for the cage. He presented 3 quotes:

Harbor Freight \$1699.99

Lowe's \$2399.00
Home Depot \$3499.00

We can pick up at Harbor Freight, and it was the best quote.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve U.S. General toolbox for \$1699.99 from Harbor Freight, seconded by Commissioner Long

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

Portable Radios for Chief Officers: The officers currently have 3 radios, and we can get 1 radio to do different bands of frequencies. Chief DiMetro would like to purchase 4. Up to Parr Lighting sells used equipment that is fully serviceable, looks new and 50% less than new. Up to Parr Lighting has 4 radios in stock at \$4850.00 each or \$19,400.00 that would alleviate 2 radios. With this radio we could communicate with Milton, New Paltz, Fairview, Poughkeepsie, Ulster and Esopus...it covers everybody. Motorola radios can be serviced by Up to Parr, \$9800.00 new with OSG contract and NYCOMCO radios are not cheap and they did not respond with a quote. This radio will alleviate having multiple radios with a switch of a button. We would keep old radios and mount in the pick-up and 31-80.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve the purchase of 4 radios, used/refurbished from Up to Parr for \$19,400.00, seconded by Commissioner Long

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

Command Car Requests: This was discussed in Chief's report:

5/29_– 5/31/26 – 31-A to Albany for Fire Instructor Course

6/6 – 6/7/26 – 31-A to Albany for Fire Instructor Course

6/9-6/12/26 – 31-80 to NYSAFC Show (training for 3 members)

Motion: Commissioner Rizzo moved to approve sending command cars to the requested dates, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone

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

13. Liaison to Town - Supervisor Weiss not in attendance

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:

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.)*

Chief DiMetro requested executive session with the Board regarding personnel issues.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to approve executive session with Chief DiMetro regarding personnel issues seconded by Commissioner Rizzo at 9:10PM.

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


Motion was carried

The board will not be reconvening.

16. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the board did not reconvene and adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted



Leslie B. Benson
District Secretary