

Regular Meeting

August 12, 2025

Vice- Chairman Paul Wilders called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Merrick Fire District to order at 8:00 PM. Those present were; Commissioner Brian Ellensohn, Commissioner Scott Rockwin, Commissioner James Rogers and Commissioner Paul Wilders. Also present were; District Treasurer Patrick Cunningham, District Attorney Joseph Pusateri, and District Clerk David Ward.

A salute to the flag led by Commissioner Rogers.

A motion by Commissioner Ellensohn, seconded by Commissioner Rockwin, unanimously passed to accept the following reports: (Commissioner Ellensohn – yes, Commissioner Rockwin – yes, Commissioner Rogers – yes, Commissioner Wilders - yes).

The Bank Account Book Balances dated August 12, 2025.

The Minutes from the Interim Meeting Minutes dated August 5, 2025.

The Minutes from the Board Business Meeting dated July 8, 2025

The “Expenses by Vendor Detail” dated August 12, 2025.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:

At this time all correspondence was read; any requiring further action will be handled under new business.

A letter from MES.

A letter from Waterway concerning hose testing.

The Four Towns Training Center Meeting Minutes, dated July 8, 2025.

An email and letter requesting information from the New York State Office of the State Comptroller.

A letter from PSEG regarding tree trimming.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

David Ward reported the status of 3 new applications for membership.

Lost and Damaged Reports:

David Ward reported on FRS work orders.

Local Government and Community Relations(AC):

Commissioner Wilders reported progress.

Building(BE,SR,JR):

Commissioner Rockwin reported on the building hall construction.
Commissioner Rogers reported on the truck room ceiling repairs.

Chief's and District Vehicles (BE,SR, PW):

Commissioner Rockwin reported the following;
Repairs to the 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe by Jerry's Car Care
Repairs to the 2001 Ford E-450 (unit 6712), by Jerry's Car Care.
Repairs to the 2001 Ford E-450 (unit 6712), by Jerry's Car Care.

Equipment (BE,SR):

David Ward reported hose testing will take place on Wednesday September 4, 2025.
David Ward reported firefighter gear, is ordered after the gear fitting was completed last month.
David Ward reported on the new Scott filling station.

Fire Department Personnel (JM,JR,PW):

A discussion was held on personnel.

Recruitment & Retention (BE, PW):

Commissioner Ellensohn reported on recruitment and retention.

Uniforms (BE,PW):

Commissioner Wilders reported on uniform equipment.
David Ward reported uniform equipment is ordered, after the uniform fitting was done last month.

Fire Apparatus and Ambulance Repairs (BE, SR, PW):

David Ward reported on the repair status of the 2008 Spartan (unit 678)
David Ward reported the 2001 Spartan (unit 671) will go to Hendrickson when the 2008 Spartan (unit 678) repairs are complete for a slow start condition on the 2001 Spartan (unit 671).
Commissioner Rockwin reported the following:

Utilities (BE, PW):

Commissioner Wilders reported on utilities.

Auditing (PC):

Patrick Cunningham reported on progress.
David Ward reported on the New York State Office of the State Comptroller Audit.

Legal (JP):

Joseph Pusateri reported on the contract for building repairs.

Insurance (JM, JR):

Commissioner Rogers reported on insurances.

Computers and Web Site (BE,PW):

Commissioner Wilders reported on computers and the website.
David Ward reported on system upgrades to the building.

Training (Fire and Administrative) (PW):

Commissioner Wilders reported on training.

Four Towns (JM,PW):

Commissioner Wilders reported on the Four Towns Training Center held tonight at North Merrick at 7 PM; next meeting Tuesday September 9, 2025

Radio (JM,SR):

Commissioner Rockwin reported on radios.

Purchasing Policies & Procedures (SR,JR):

Commissioner Rockwin reported on purchasing.

Medical Equipment (JM, JR):

Commissioner Rogers reported on medical equipment.

District Employees (C.O.B, PW):

Commissioner Wilders reported on District Employees.

District Policies and Procedures (AC):

Patrick Cunningham reported the following Account Transfer/Electronic Debit:

Date	From	To	Amount
8/12/2025	NY CLASS 001 Connect One	0336	\$ 150,000.00
8/12/2025	NY CLASS 001 NY CLASS CR Apparatus & Equip	002	\$ 590,000.00
8/12/2025	NY CLASS 001 NY CLASS CR Building & Grounds	003	\$ 374,075.00

Inventory Control (SR,JR):

David Ward reported the following changes to inventory;

CO meter reached end of life, discarded mod # SP-SQT-CO, s/n SN0112686

Scott filling station b/c 00223, s/n 972138 replaced with new filling station, old filling station discarded.

Floor scrubber, reached end of life, discarded, b/c01161, s/n N4000051042, not cost effective to repair, replaced with new.

Steel Bottle, reached end of life b/c B00010

(Commissioner Ellensohn – yes, Commissioner Rockwin – yes, Commissioner Rogers - yes, Commissioner Wilders – yes).

Installation Dinner (AC):

Commissioner Wilders reported on the Installation Dinner.

Length of Service Awards Program (BE,JM.):

Commissioner Ellensohn reported on the Length of Service Awards Program.

EMS Certifications and Ambulance Narcotics (C.O.B, JR):

Commissioner Ellensohn reported progress.

EMS Cost Recovery (BE, JR, PW):

Commissioner Rogers reported on EMS Cost Recovery.

Old Business:

New Business:

A motion by Commissioner Rockwin, seconded by Commissioner Ellensohn unanimously approved the Length of Service Awards Program Conflict of Interest Policy. (Commissioner Ellensohn – yes, Commissioner Rockwin – yes, Commissioner Rogers – yes, Commissioner Wilders - yes).

A motion by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Wilders unanimously approved the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan. (Commissioner Ellensohn – yes, Commissioner Rockwin – yes, Commissioner Rogers – yes, Commissioner Wilders - yes).

A motion by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Ellensohn unanimously approved the attached resolution subject to a permissive referendum. (Commissioner Ellensohn – yes, Commissioner Rockwin – yes, Commissioner Rogers – yes, Commissioner Wilders - yes).

At this time the North Merrick Fire Department budget requests were gone over, a motion by Commissioner Rockwin, seconded by Commissioner Ellensohn unanimously approved the following;

CO # 1 "Continue working with First Arriving" \$ 22,124.00	APPROVED
CO # 2 "Apparatus License Plates for the 100 th Anniversary" \$ 2,565.00	APPROVED
CO # 3 "Apparatus Decals for 100 th Anniversary" \$ 640.00	APPROVED
CO # 4 "Pack Tracker"	TABLED
HL # 1 "Parapet ladder and mounting brackets for 673" \$ 1092.50	DENIED
HL # 2 "Battery Operated Ventilation Fans for 678" \$ 17,304.30	DENIED
HL # 3 "Propane Burn Off Kit" \$ 7,819.00	APPROVED
DT # 1 "Personal Safety Equipment as needed with purchase requests...."	APPROVED
DT # 2 "Three Lengths of Single Jacket Hose (as needed)"	APPROVED
DT # 3 "One (1) length of tournament motor pump hard suction hose with Couplings attached (as needed)"	APPROVED
DT # 4 "Operating Budget as in past (allowed with receipts)"	APPROVED
DT # 5 "Engine, Transmission and pump rebuild (as needed)"	APPROVED
DT # 6 "Two (2) 10 x 20 E-Z Up pop tents (Red) \$ 1,604.00	APPROVED
DT # 7 "Two (2) Coleman 316 Series 100-Quart wheeled cooler in rock cooler" \$ 250.86	APPROVED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted
David M. Ward
District Clerk



Adopted 8/12/2025DW

North Merrick Fire District
2095 Camp Avenue
North Merrick, New York 11566

**REQUIRED CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTIFICATION FOR
FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS UNDER A LOSAP**

Fire districts have the authority to establish Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAP) or service award programs for their volunteer firefighters under Article 11-a of the General Municipal Law. These programs are initially created by a resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners, subject to mandatory voter approval through a referendum. Once approved by voters, the established programs may be amended by the Board of Fire Commissioners, with certain amendments requiring voter approval and others not requiring it. This system involves the Board of Fire Commissioners in the approval process, where members may also be volunteer firefighters eligible to participate in the program. Under basic conflict of interest rules, this involvement could create a potential conflict of interest for individual commissioners. In many districts, the majority of the Board may be volunteer firefighters and participants in the program.

Article 11-a of the General Municipal Law addresses this issue as follows:

5. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, no member of the governing board of a political subdivision of the state is prohibited by virtue of being a member of a volunteer fire company or department from voting upon a resolution authorizing a referendum on the establishment of a service award program if more than forty percent of the governing board would otherwise be prohibited from voting upon such resolution. Any member of such governing board voting upon such a resolution who serves as a member of a volunteer fire company or department shall publicly disclose in writing to the governing board such status. Such written disclosure shall be part of and set forth in the official record of the proceedings of such governing board. N.Y. Gen. Mun. Law § 216 (McKinney). Thus, in a fire district where forty (40%) percent or more of the members are volunteer firefighters and members of the district fire department/company, the volunteer firefighter/ commissioners are permitted to vote on LOSAP matters. If less than forty (40%) percent of the Board members are volunteer firefighters, the volunteer firefighter/ commissioners cannot vote on the LOSAP resolutions.

In a fire district with a LOSAP program, volunteer firefighters/ commissioners should submit the following written disclosure to the Board of Fire Commissioners at a Board meeting. The disclosure should be read aloud into the minutes during the meeting and attached to the meeting minutes.

The written disclosure should be filed by a commissioner each time he or she is elected, appointed, re-elected and re-appointed.

Effective date. 8/12/2025

This Policy takes effect immediately.

The adoption of the foregoing policy was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follow:

Vice – Chairman Paul Wilders - yes
Commissioner ~~Scott~~Michael Rockwin - yes
Commissioner ~~Brian~~Ellensohn - yes
Commissioner James Rogers - yes

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted at a Board Meeting held this date August 12, 2025 North Merrick, New York, 11566

Attested: David M. Ward, District Clerk

Form of Disclosure:

To: Board of Fire Commissioners, North Merrick Fire District
From: _____; Commissioner

Date: February 1, 2025

Subject: LOSAP Disclosure

Gentlemen and Ladies: This communication is submitted to the Board in accordance with the requirements of Section 216 of the General Municipal Law and relates to my disclosure related to the Length of Service Award Program ["LOSAP"] maintained by the fire district. I am required under the statute to provide a written disclosure because I may be called upon to vote on resolutions or motions related to the LOSAP. Any member of the Board who might vote on a resolution or motion related to the program who also serves as a member of our volunteer fire company or department is required to publicly disclose in writing to the Board that he or she is a member of the volunteer fire company or department.

Currently, I wish to disclose that I am a volunteer member of the North Merrick Fire Department.

I would ask that this disclosure be read off at the next meeting of the Board and be made a part of and set forth in the official minutes/record of the meeting.

Very truly yours,

Print name

Signature
Commissioner



Adopted 8/12/2025DW

North Merrick Fire District
2095 Camp Avenue
North Merrick, New York 11566

NEW YORK STATE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the North Merrick Fire District wishes to adopt the Deferred Compensation Plan for Employees of the State of New York and Other Participating Public Jurisdictions (the "Plan") for the voluntary participation of all eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the North Merrick Fire District is a local public employer eligible to adopt the Plan pursuant to Section 5 of the State Finance Law;^{*} and

WHEREAS, the North Merrick Fire District has reviewed the Plan established in accordance with Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 5 of the State Finance Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan is to encourage employees to make and continue

careers with the North Merrick Fire District by providing eligible employees with a convenient and tax-favored method of saving on a regular and long-term basis and thereby provide for their retirement;

^{*}A local public employer eligible to adopt the Plan pursuant to Section 5 of the State Finance Law includes: a county, city, town, village or other political subdivision as defined in Section 131 of the retirement and Social Security law or civil division of the State; a school district or other governmental entity operating a public school, college, or university; a public improvement or special district, a public authority, commission, or public benefit corporation; or any other public corporation, agency or instrumentality or unit of government which exercises governmental powers under the laws of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby:

RESOLVED, that the North Merrick Fire District hereby adopts the Plan for the voluntary participation of all eligible employees; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the appropriate officials of the North Merrick Fire District are hereby authorized to take such actions and enter such agreements as are required or necessary for the adoption, implementation, and maintenance of the Plan; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Administrative Services Agency is hereby authorized to file copies of these resolutions and other required documents with the President of the State of New York Civil Service Commission.

Adopted this 12th day of August, 2025 ,at a regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners' of the North Merrick Fire District

I hereby certify that the North Merrick Fire District is a local public employer within the meaning of Section 5 of the State Finance Law and that the adoption of the Plan has received all required approvals of any local governing body or officer and otherwise complies with local law.

Witnessed by: David Ward, District Clerk, North Merrick Fire District

By:
Consent of the Deferred
Compensation Board of the
State of New York to
Local Public Employer's
Participation

Effective date. 8/12/2025

This Policy takes effect immediately.

The adoption of the foregoing policy was duly put to a vote and upon roll call the vote was as follow:

Vice – Chairman Paul Wilders - yes
Commissioner ~~Scott~~Michael Rockwin - yes
Commissioner Brian ~~Ellensohn~~ - yes
Commissioner James Rogers - yes

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted at a Board Meeting held this date August 12, 2025
North Merrick, New York, 11566

Attested: David M. Ward, District Clerk



North Merrick Fire District

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

2095 Camp Avenue, North Merrick, N.Y. 11566

(516) 223 - 4102 • FAX (516) 223 - 4105

Notice of Permissive Referendum

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Merrick Fire District in the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, New York, at a regular business meeting held on the twelfth day of August, 2025, duly adopted the following resolution, subject to a permissive referendum.

Resolution # 1

A resolution authorizing the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Merrick Fire District in the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, New York to sell or otherwise dispose of personal property of the Fire District consisting of one (1) 2013 or 2014 Ford E-450 ambulance, which said vehicle is no longer necessary for any of the uses or purposes of the District at such time, and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Fire Commissioners in its discretion may determine; said monies realized there from to be used toward the purchase of a replacement ambulance.

A resolution authorizing the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Merrick Fire District in the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, New York to expend monies from the Apparatus and Equipment Reserve Fund for necessary purchase of a replacement ambulance, and associated equipment. Upon such terms, specifications and conditions as the Board of Fire Commissioners may determine. Said costs shall not exceed \$ 400,000. (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars).

Section 1. Pursuant to section 6 – G subdivision 7 of the General Municipal Law, the monies authorized for this expenditure shall be paid from the Apparatus and Equipment Reserve Fund.

Section 2. Any monies or sums to be realized from the sale of this ambulance shall be paid into the Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, established pursuant to Resolution # 1 herein, thereby reducing the amount of monies necessary to be expended.

Section 3. Pursuant to section 6 – G subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law, any monies received there from shall be paid into such Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund.

Section 4. This resolution is adopted subject to a permissive referendum.

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners
North Merrick Fire District.
David M. Ward District Clerk
North Merrick Fire District
August 12, 2025