

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS, PURCHASE FIRE DISTRICT, PURCHASE, NY,
Held on Thursday August 20, 2026**

Chairman Joseph Brefere called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 6:30 PM.

Attending were: Chairman Brefere, Commissioners M. Lobel, R. Makowski and G. Scott Sala, Treasurer L. Saenger and Chief A. Buch.

On a motion by Commissioner Lobel seconded by Commissioner Sala and carried unanimously, the minutes of the May, June and July 2026 meeting were accepted.

A letter from District Counsel regarding proposed 2027 retainer agreement was received. This will be addressed at the 2027 Organizational Meeting.

A letter from the fire company advising the results of a special election of company officers to fill vacancies was received.

On a motion by Commissioner Brefere, seconded by Commissioner Lobel and carried unanimously, the conversion of the recently ordered utility truck to add emergency lights, radios and related items will be designated as a professional service not requiring quotes. This designation is based on issues experienced in the past.

On a motion by Commissioner Sala, seconded by Commissioner Brefere and carried unanimously, a proposal from Old Oaks Country Club to provide the venue and refreshments for the 2026 Inspection Dinner at a cost of \$20,000 for a maximum of 110 persons was approved.

Secretary Makowski presented the Board with a proposed budget for 2027. The budget proposed by Secretary Makowski would increase the tax levy by \$9,000, well below the 2% tax cap. On a motion by Commissioner Brefere, seconded by Commissioner Lobel and carried unanimously, a budget in the amount of \$2,436,188 with a tax levy of \$2,371,188 was adopted as the 2027 proposed budget, subject to revision prior to the September 30 deadline.

Secretary Makowski reported he is in the process of seeking 3 written quotes for the video upgrade project approved last month. He also reported that repairs to the basement card room have been completed.

On a motion by Commissioner Brefere, seconded by Commissioner Makowski and carried unanimously, district officers will be permitted to use personal vehicles for travel to the Association of Fire Districts meeting in Saratoga Spring, NY in October.

The board discussed the possibility that firefighters who attended training courses in years past might not be as qualified as newer firefighters, especially when it comes to survival. On a motion by Commissioner Makowski, seconded by Commissioner Brefere and carried unanimously, the Chief has the authority to order retraining of firefighters if he deems it necessary, especially for personal safety.

R. Makowski reported that the state now charges a minimal cost for training at Montour Falls. On a motion by Commissioner Lobel, seconded by Commissioner Sala and carried unanimously, the Chief along with the District Secretary have the authority to approve such training without prior Board approval.

A discussion was held regarding our policy regarding firefighters under the age of 18 not being allowed to fight interior structure fires. Chief Buch stated he has checked with OFPC who advised there is no

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restriction unless the authority having jurisdiction imposes one. On a motion by Commissioner Makowski, seconded by Commissioner Lobel and carried unanimously, District policy pertaining to members under 18 has been amended to allow 17-year-olds to become interior firefighters provided they have required training and permission from their parent(s) and Fire Chief.

On a motion by Commissioner Lobel, seconded Commissioner Makowski and carried unanimously, James Regan was approved to become a live-in firefighter.

Chief Buch proposed the following members as the new engine committee:

Chairman Derrick Maher, Aron Buch, John Varmon, Jack Ungar, and Jacob Casamassima

On a motion by Commissioner Sala, seconded by Commissioner Brefere and carried unanimously, the outstanding claims were ordered paid.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM on a motion by Commissioner Makowski, seconded by Commissioner Lobel and carried unanimously.

Robert Makowski

MEETING NOTICE

The September 2026 meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on Thursday September 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM.