HARTSDALE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hartsdale Fire District was held at Fire Station 2, 300 West Hartsdale Avenue, Hartsdale, New York, on Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

Members present:	Chairperson	Vallarelli
	Commissioners	Iamonico, Maguire (arrived at 7:51pm), Muldoon, Nanko
	Chief	Maseda
	Secretary	Kane
	Treasurer	Barahona
Members absent:	None	

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Vallarelli called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Muldoon, to open Executive Session to discuss matters relating to the employment of a particular person(s). All in favor. Motion carried.
- The Executive Session opened at 7:40 p.m.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Muldoon, to close Executive Session. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Executive Session concluded at 7:47 p.m. The board recessed until 8:03 p.m., at which time the Public Session resumed.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Commissioner Maguire led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- **Motion**: A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 8, 2026, as submitted by the Secretary. All in favor. The motion carried.
- **Motion**: A motion was made by Commissioner Nanko, seconded by Commissioner Iamonico, to approve the minutes of the Special Work Session Meeting on September 10, 2026, as submitted by the Secretary. All in favor. The motion carried.
- **Motion**: A motion was made by Commissioner Nanko, seconded by Commissioner Iamonico, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on September 14, 2026, as submitted by the Secretary. All in favor. The motion carried.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

- **Cash Balances**
  - Treasurer Barahona presented the current cash balances as of September 30, 2026.

        - Operating Fund: $129,334.27
        - General Fund: $847,949.21
    - Treasurer Barahona reported that the District had two certioraris come in this week, one for 1.5 million and another at an even 1 million. Treasurer Barahona is working on the cash flows to figure out how much the District needs to roll over.
    - Treasurer Barahona highlighted that the District received two additional tax certs; one for $29,000 and the other one for a little over $3,000. There were also two invoices related to the firefighter evaluation program.

- **Workers' Comp. Audit**
    - Treasurer Barahona followed up with the underwriter to clarify why premiums are lower than last year, contrary to expectations, and the underwriter explained that the percentages and factors that go into the calculation are driven by wages from quarterly payrolls and ADP reports.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 30, 2026. All in favor. The motion carried.

6. BILLS RENDERED

- **Motion**: A motion was made by Commissioner Nanko, seconded by Commissioner Iamonico, to accept and authorize payment of the bills reviewed by the Board for the period September 8, 2026, through October 13, 2026, in the total amount of $330,923.26. All in favor. The motion carried.

7. CHIEF'S REPORT

- **Incidents**
    - Chief Maseda reported that there were 212 incidents for the month of September.

- **Training & Community Outreach**
    - Chief Maseda reported that September staff training focused on tactics for one- and two- family homes, using a house on Joyce Road that is slated for demolition. The house will also be used for other training exercises (e.g. search and rescue, hose line deployment, roof work, etc.), subject to its condition and any restricted areas.

    - District staff have concentrated community outreach and preplanning activities on East Hartsdale Ave. due to the ongoing construction, modeling various tactical scenarios and meeting with stakeholders.

- **Babysitters Course**
    - Chief Maseda announced that the Babysitters Course concluded tonight. 14 children completed the course this year. Deputy Chief Musorrafiti and the staff instructed the children on safety, childcare, medical topics, and fire safety. Chief Maseda commended the staff that helped deliver the Babysitters Course.

- **Fleet & Equipment**
    - **New Engine:** Chief Maseda provided an update regarding the new engine. Chief Maseda reported that the new engine returned from the preliminary warranty work at the dealer. A defective DEF sensor that caused a check-engine light was replaced. Chief Maseda reported that the engine is nearly ready for service with a short punch list and some items still outstanding from the dealer. Final in-service is expected in the next few weeks.

- **Alarm Box Removal:** Chief Maseda reported that the fire alarm boxes have been removed from the telephone poles and are secured at Station 1. The Board will discuss what to do with them in the future.

- **Building & Grounds**
  - Chief Maseda reported that several building projects are underway. The parking lot at Station 2 has been striped. Trim and overhang paint and restoration work is planned, and some electrical work has been completed at Station 2. HVAC maintenance is underway at both stations, while sewer-line jetting and installation of a humidification system are underway at Station 2.

- **Administration**
  - **Code 59 Safety Review Closeout**: Chief Maseda reported that the District's closeout meeting with NYSIF Workers' Comp. Consultant for the NYS Department of Labor Code 59 review had concluded with no comments, which is the best possible report from the inspector. The inspection results had been sent to the Department of Labor and the District's insurer. The inspection is valid for the next six years.

- **Other**
  - **Website Committee:** Chief Maseda reported that the District is still on target to have a website committee meet. He reported that following the Babysitters Course and Budget Hearing the District will move on to continuing the website work.

  - **PFAS-Free gear:** Chief Maseda reported that Captain Mentrasti has put together a committee for evaluating new turnout gear options that are PFAS -free. He reported that the Committee will meet later in October.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Muldoon, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, to accept the Chief's Report for September 30, 2026. All in favor. The motion carried**.**

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Facilities & Apparatus:** Commissioner Nanko reported that all the projects for the stations are progressing and apparatus work is underway.

- **Health, Safety & Welfare/Negotiations:** Chairman Vallarelli reported that Labor negotiations are ongoing.

- **Administrative Policy & Procedures:** Chairman Vallarelli stated that he and Commissioner Maguire have the strategic plan, but that one of the components is a community risk assessment. Chairman Vallarelli asked Chief Maseda about timing for the community risk assessment and Chief Maseda responded that he had contacted Pat O'Brien, the Emergency Manager at SUNY who works on community assessments, and that Mr. O'Brien had offered to send templates and other tools. Chief Maseda and Board agreed to discuss a suitable timeline.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- **HFD/GFD Border Issue**
  - Commissioner Muldoon asked Chief Maseda to discuss the driving factors behind resolving the border dispute. Chief Maseda explained that one of the drivers was that there was disagreement about whose jurisdiction it was during a response to a fire that resulted in fatality. He noted that while that was the most severe example, jurisdictional questions arise from time to time. He explained that the goal is to reduce confusion about jurisdiction during emergency responses. Commissioner Muldoon stated that this information should be shared with counsel.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- Correspondence received since the previous Board meeting had been provided to the Board for review prior to the meeting. Secretary Kane highlighted correspondence of importance during the meeting, including that the proposed budget had been filed, and notice of the budget hearing had been sent to the Journal News and the Town Clerk. The Secretary also reported receiving two FOIL requests related to alarms, an employment inquiry, and additional legal documents concerning the DISH tower matter. The Board questioned the DISH matter and Chief Maseda stated that the District had no current rental exposure because although they had an option to pay the District upfront, they did not exercise that option, no equipment had been installed on the tower and no rent was owed. Chairman Vallarelli asked whether the Board had any questions regarding the rest of the correspondence and none were raised.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion on participating in 2027 Fire Promotional Examinations**
    - The Board considered a Westchester County Department of Human Resources survey regarding the District's participation in the 2027 Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, and Captain promotional examinations. Members discussed the existing eligibility lists, their expiration dates, and how new or supplemental lists could affect candidates' opportunities and rankings. Some commissioners questioned the need for new exams while current lists remained valid and raised concerns about the frequency of testing and possible effects on existing candidates. Chief Maseda stated that candidates on the current lists would not be required to retake the exams and that the existing lists would retain priority, with any subsequent list following them. He noted that Civil Service would determine how new examination results would interact with the existing lists.

    - **Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Muldoon, seconded by Commissioner Maguire, to participate in the 2027 Chief and Deputy Chief promotional examinations and to submit the survey accordingly.

      Secretary Kane Called the Roll:
      Chairman Vallarelli – Aye
      Commissioner Maguire – Aye
      Commissioner Muldoon – Aye
      Commissioner Nanko – Nay
      Commissioner Iamonico – Nay
      The motion passed: Ayes – 3; Nays – 2.

- **Discussion on Establishing a Contingency and Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund (Subject to Permissive Referendum)**
    - The Board discussed establishing a contingency and tax stabilization reserve fund under NYS General Municipal Law § 6-e to provide for unanticipated revenue losses, expenditures, and other purposes authorized by law. The discussion noted that the fund would make contingency amounts more visible by moving a portion of the contingencies embedded in individual budget lines into a designated reserve. Accessing funds from the reserve would require further Board action. Treasurer Barahona stated that the proposed 2027 Budget includes $368,000 for the contingency line, reallocated from salary and insurance lines.

- **RESOLUTION: To Establish a Contingency and Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund (Subject to Permissive Referendum)**

    - **Motion:** A motion was made by Chairman Vallarelli, seconded by Commissioner Iamonico, to adopt the following resolution:

      WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hartsdale Fire District recognizes the importance of maintaining adequate financial reserves to address unanticipated revenue losses, unanticipated expenditures, and other purposes authorized by law; and

      WHEREAS, New York State General Municipal Law § 6-e authorizes the establishment of a Contingency and Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund for a municipal corporation, subject to a permissive referendum; and

      WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners deems it to be in the best interests of the Hartsdale Fire District and its taxpayers to establish such a reserve fund for purposes authorized under applicable law;

      BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hartsdale Fire District hereby authorizes the establishment of a **Contingency and Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund**, pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law § 6-e, for the purpose of financing unanticipated revenue losses, unanticipated expenditures, and other purposes authorized by law; and

      BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount to be deposited into said reserve fund shall be determined at a later date, subject to the adoption of the District's 2027 budget and the availability of funds lawfully available for such purpose, and in accordance with applicable statutory limitations; and

      BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the establishment of said reserve fund is subject to permissive referendum in accordance with New York State General Municipal Law §§ 6-e(2) and 6-g(4).

      Secretary Kane Called the Roll:
      Chairman Vallarelli – Aye
      Commissioner Iamonico – Aye
      Commissioner Maguire – Aye
      Commissioner Muldoon – Aye
      Commissioner Nanko – Aye

      The resolution was adopted: Ayes – 5; Nays – None.

      This resolution is subject to permissive referendum and shall take effect thirty (30) days after adoption unless a valid petition is filed with the Secretary of the Hartsdale Fire District, 300 West Hartsdale Avenue, Hartsdale, New York 10530, within that time in accordance with applicable law.

- **Annual Election 2026**

    - **RESOLUTION:** To appoint the Chairperson, Election Inspectors, and Alternate Inspectors for the Hartsdale Fire District’s Annual Election to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1.

WHEREAS, Section 175-a of the Town Law provides for a system of registration for Fire District elections, and such register shall be prepared from the names of persons who have registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections; and

WHEREAS, subdivision 1 of Section 175 of the Town Law authorizes the Board of Fire Commissioners to designate a resident fire district elector to serve as Chairperson of the annual election, and not less than two nor more than four resident fire district electors to act as election inspectors and ballot clerks at each polling place in such election; and

WHEREAS, Section 175-a(6) further authorizes the designation of alternate election inspectors to serve in the event a designated inspector is unable or unwilling to perform their duties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following resident electors of the Hartsdale Fire District, who are not officers of the District, are hereby appointed to constitute the Hartsdale Fire District Board of Elections for the Annual District Election to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Hartsdale Fire Station No. 1, 25 South Central Avenue, Hartsdale, NY:

Chairperson: Denise Baker

Election Inspectors: Mark Lindenberg
Terence Connors
Barbara Varela
Patrizia Boniello

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following resident electors of the Hartsdale Fire District, who are not officers of the District, are hereby appointed as alternate inspectors of election, to serve only in the event a designated inspector is unable or unwilling to perform their duties:

Alternate Election Inspectors: Tracey Cosgrove
Mark McKinney
Carolyn Desley

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson, Election Inspectors, and any Alternate Inspectors who are called upon to serve shall be compensated with a sum not to exceed $100.00 for their services in preparing the registration records and attending the annual election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event any of the appointed members are unable or unwilling to perform the duties required of them, the Board of Fire Commissioners shall consider the appointment of such clerical persons as may be requested by the Chairperson of the Fire District Board of Elections.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Maguire, to adopt the resolution designating the Chairperson, Inspectors, and Alternate Inspectors of Election for the Annual Election of the Hartsdale Fire District to be held on December 8, 2026. All in favor. The motion carried.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Freddy Victoria, a resident of the District, asked whether the audit that was presented at the last meeting was on the website or publicly available.

- Secretary Kane stated that it was posted on the website under District Documents → Fiscal Information → Annual Financial Reports.

- Mr. Victoria also asked whether there was any update on the long-term financial plan ahead of the budget meeting.
  - The Board stated that there was no update at this time and noted that the Proposed 2027 Budget is at the tax cap.

- No further public comments were raised.

13. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

- There being no further business for the Regular Meeting, a motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, that the meeting be adjourned. All in favor. The motion carried.

- Chairman Vallarelli adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes were prepared and submitted by:

Christine K. Kane
Fire District Secretary