HARTSDALE FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 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, September 8, 2026.

Members present:	Chairperson	Vallarelli
	Commissioners	Iamonico, Muldoon, Nanko
	Chief	Maseda
	Secretary	Kane
	Treasurer	Barahona
Members absent:	Commissioner	Maguire

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Vallarelli called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A motion was made by Chairman Vallarelli, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, 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 7:41 p.m.
- A motion was made by Chairman Vallarelli, seconded by Commissioner Iamonico, to close Executive Session. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Executive Session closed at 8:15 p.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Commissioner Iamonico 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 July 14, 2026, as submitted by the Secretary. All in favor. The motion carried.

5. REVIEW OF ANNUAL AUDIT

- The Board received a presentation by Jeremy DeBarr, Senior Manager, BST & Co. CPAs, on the results of the annual financial audit. Mr. Barr reported that the Hartsdale Fire District received an unmodified ("clean") audit opinion, with no material errors or audit adjustments, and only minor, immaterial cutoff issues related to timing of revenue and expense recognition.
- Mr. DeBarr explained that the District reports under GASB 34/US GAAP, which is more complex than the regulatory basis used by most fire districts and requires reporting of capital assets, long-term debt,

net pension liability, and OPEB liability. The District's approximately $11 million net pension liability and $31 million OPEB liability are long-term (greater than 20 years) estimated obligations based on actuarial assumptions and do not represent immediate cash outflows, though they contribute to a negative net position on the government-wide statements.

- Mr. DeBarr noted that the auditors reviewed and tested selected internal controls and identified no deficiencies, with key risk areas for fire districts being disbursements/cash outflows and procurement/OSC compliance; in these areas, no issues were found.

- Mr. DeBarr also reported that the electronic approval workflow implemented mid-year operated smoothly with no concerns or findings. He commended Treasurer Barahona and the team for their responsiveness and cooperation.

- In response to questions from the Board, Mr. DeBarr confirmed there were no unusual transactions, no fraud, and no red or orange flags identified during the audit.

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 July 14 through August 12, 2026, in the total amount of $287,372.31. All in favor. The motion carried.

- **Motion**: A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, to accept and authorize payment of the bills reviewed by the Board for the period August 12 through September 8, 2026, in the total amount of $353,492.77. All in favor. The motion carried.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

- **Cash Balances**
  - Treasurer Barahona presented the current cash balances as of August 31, 2026.
    - Operating Fund: $372,445.87
    - General Fund: nearly $931,855.87

- **Investment Discussion**
  - Treasurer Barahona reported that approximately $13 million remains largely invested in CDs, with maturities occurring monthly. Treasurer Barahona is exploring alternative investment options to align with upcoming maturities, with the next maturity next Wednesday.

- **ACH**
  - The District has begun transitioning vendor payments from checks to ACH to reduce lost checks and improve security. The ACH process runs as a batch directly from the accounting system to TD Bank and has been functioning smoothly.

- **Workers' Comp. Audit**
  - Treasurer Barahona also reported that the Workers' Comp. Audit was completed last Friday and that no exceptions were noted. Treasurer Barahona is following up with the underwriter to clarify why premiums are lower than last year, contrary to expectations.

- **Budget**
    - Treasurer Barahona has been working on supporting schedules for the upcoming budget and expects to provide preliminary materials to the Board tomorrow morning.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2026. All in favor. The motion carried.

8. CHIEF'S REPORT

- **Incidents**
    - Chief Maseda reported that there were 231 incidents in July and 194 for August. He noted that July was significantly busier, primarily due to heat-related incidents and the summer heat wave. The Chief thanked the staff for working under difficult heat conditions.

- **Training**
    - The Chief reported that summer training evolutions included crews continuing evolutions in water supply, heat related emergencies, and ongoing special equipment training.
    - Hands-on fall training is scheduled to begin at the end of this month.
    - The Annual Babysitters Course is starting this month, with sign-ups available on the website.
        - The recommended age is 12 and up, with some flexibility for 11-year olds turning 12.
        - Adults who are interested may also register.

- **Fleet & Equipment**
    - **New Engine:** The Chief provided an update regarding the new engine. In-house tool mounting and final fitment are nearly complete. The engine is available for callbacks in case of emergencies. Crews have been completing familiarization training during the fitment process. Final in-service is expected in the next few weeks.

    - **Alarm Box Removal:** The Chief reported that the fire alarm box removal is scheduled for the end of September by the Alarm Superintendents.

    - **Storage Shed/Shipping Container Proposal:** The storage shed behind Station 2 is experiencing roof leaks and needs a roof replacement. A tarp has been placed for temporary protection. A roof replacement is estimated to be approximately $6,500, which may increase due to material costs. The Chief proposed an alternative – replace the woodshed with a metal shipping container (Sealand container). The approximate cost for box and delivery is around $4,500. After modifications and possible demolition of the old shed, the total cost is roughly comparable to $6,500. The benefits would be that there would be no roofing issues as it would be a metal structure, there would be greater versatility, there are different sizing options available, and it could be painted to blend with surroundings.
        - Commissioners expressed general support for exploring this as a better long-term investment.
        - The Chief will develop a written proposal and submit it to the Board.

- **Administration**
    - **Code 59 Safety Review Meeting**: The Chief reported that the District has a closeout meeting with NYSIF Workers' Comp. Consultant for the NYS Department of Labor Code 59 review following an inspection conducted on June 29th.

    - **Policy:** The Chief reported that internal operations on the OSHA policy review are ongoing.

- **Involvement in Town Planning & Development Meetings:** The District has attended several meetings with the Building and Planning departments concerning ongoing construction on E. Hartsdale Ave, new store openings on N. Central Ave, engineering work starting for the 4-Corners redevelopment project, and sidewalk installation on W. Hartsdale Ave. Most projects are ongoing, except at the N. Central Ave. stores, which are almost complete. An older apartment building on N. Central Ave. lacks modern fire protection features (open stairwells, no built-in fire protection). It is considered "target housing" due to occupancy and construction risks, requiring more staff and equipment in the event of a fire. There is a deficiency in recommended fire flow for the area, and the District is working with the town to improve water supply, which would also help the District's insurance rating. The Chief noted strong coordination with DPW and the Planning Board, who have been proactive in involving the District.

- **Other**

  - **Gear Inspection/Cleaning Services:** The Chief reported that the District conducted its first electronic Request for Quotation (RFQ) via Beacon Bids on the website for gear cleaning and inspection. Two bids were received and the Chief expects to award the contract shortly. The process was smooth with positive feedback from the vendors. The selected vendor will provide on-site gear inspection, cleaning, and repairs using a service truck, improving turnaround time compared to the prior pickup and delivery process.

  - **Website Committee:** The Chief reported that the District is still on target to have a website committee meet sometime in September after the budget process is done.

  - **PFAS-Free gear:** The Chief reported that Captain Mentrasti has started the feedback process with the staff for the next round of turnout gear purchases. The goal is to reduce or eliminate "forever chemicals" (PFAS) in new gear, improving health and safety. Next steps include forming a committee, gathering samples and staff input, and evaluating options. Chief Maseda shared that turnout gear has a 10-year service life, and the District is planning staggered replacements every five years for long-term planning.

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

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Committee reports were deferred to next month.

10. OLD BUSINESS

- **HFD/GFD Boundary Update**
  - The Board discussed ongoing issues regarding the boundary dispute with the Greenville Fire District. A request had been made to Greenville's Chairman, Walter Groden, for an update following their consultation with counsel. The response via email indicated that they are still reviewing the matter, including requesting additional information from county and state agencies.

  - The Board discussed how it had previously offered a compromise to use the current tax map as an equitable, zero-sum solution, which would resolve overlaps without changing overall tax impacts. Greenville has not accepted the offer. The Board discussed the serious operational risks associated with unclear boundaries.

- After discussion, the consensus was that the District has attempted to negotiate in good faith and must now engage the District's attorney with the intent of filing the revised District map with the town.

- **Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Muldoon, to engage the District's attorney with the intent of filing the revised District tax map with the Town. All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Committee Responsibilities and Goals**
  - The Board reviewed the committee responsibilities and goals that were drafted earlier in the year by Chairman Vallarelli and agreed that there were no substantive changes to committee assignments. No major textual changes to the goals/initiatives listed were requested.

  - **Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Nanko, seconded by Commissioner Iamonico, to approve the committee responsibilities, goals, objectives, and initiatives as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Procurement Policy**
  - The Board discussed feedback received from the firefighters' union (GUFA) regarding the procurement policy. The Board is going to revise and review the policy language, considering the union's comments and develop responses and potential amendments consistent with the District's objectives. Chairman Vallarelli will reach out to union representatives informally tomorrow to advise them that the Board is reviewing their concerns and working on revisions.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- Correspondence received since the previous Board meeting had been provided to the Board for review prior to the meeting. Chairman Vallarelli asked whether the Board had any questions regarding the correspondence and none were raised.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- **Preauthorization of Payment Upon Completion of Electric Work**
  - **Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, to pre-authorize payment to Barnett Electric, Inc. upon completion of the electrical work on the gym closet and front dispatch office, including a dedicated GFCI dryer circuit and apparatus circuit, for the full amount of $3,550.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Budget Meetings**
  - The 2027 Budget Work Session/Special Meeting dates will be Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 8:00 p.m., and Monday, September 14, 2026, at 8:00 p.m. The Board will assess the progress of the Work Sessions to determine when the proposed budget will be adopted and whether an additional Special Meeting is necessary. The proposed budget must be adopted by September 29, 2026.

- **9/11 25th Anniversary Ceremony**
  - The District will participate in the Town's 9/11 25th Anniversary Ceremony at the Gerard J. Byrne Center at Anthony F. Veteran Park (former multipurpose center). The Board recognized the significance of the 25th Anniversary of 9/11 and the ongoing losses of responders due to 9/11-related illnesses. The District remembered former Commissioner Peter Woods, who was also lost due to 9/11.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Freddy Victoria, a resident of the District, asked what the large judgement that came in August was.
    - The Treasurer explained that there were no judgements. She stated that it was a tax cert that the District received.

- Mr. Victoria also asked whether there was any update on the long-term financial plan that the Board has been working on.
    - The Board responded that there is no update at this time.

- Brian Townsend, a resident and firefighter of the District, asked whether the District has a copy of Greenville's latest map.
    - The Board responded that Greenville has not provided the District with a current map.

- No further public comments were raised.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- 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 9:20 p.m.

Minutes were prepared and submitted by:

Christine K. Kane
Fire District Secretary