

January 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were: Bob Patterson, Brendan Molloy, Renee Stanford, Les Elsworth, Patty Murray, Sherri Cohen, Jackie Kreiner, Cory Sanford, Arthur Roush, Maureen Roush, Chris Strain, Desiree Strain, Ian Monzo, Wendy Monzo, Tom Cohen, Tim Manwarren, Linda Winton, Floyd Winton, Kathy Clemons, Bill Clemons.

The minutes from 12-15-25 were read and approved. Renee motioned to accept. Seconded by Brendan and was carried.

Meeting paused at 7:02 p.m. to commence re-organizational meeting, which concluded at 7:07 p.m. Regular meeting immediately continued.

PRESENTATION BY CGR PROJECT STUDY

Paul Bishop was present to present the draft findings of the evaluation of the operations of the Plymouth Fire Dept. (PFD). Interviews were conducted with the Fire Chief, Chairman of the Fire District, Town Supervisor, six members of the PFD, Norwich Fire Chief and the Mayor of Norwich. Information was gathered from the PFD, the District, NYS Comptroller's Office and Chenango Co. Sheriff's office 911 dispatch center.

Operating costs of fire depts. today has grown at a rate that is at least three to four times the rate of inflation. Volunteering in any organization has declined over the past two decades and not just in fire service.

Plymouth Fire District has an obligation to provide adequate fire protection thru its own dept., contractual arrangements, mutual aid from Norwich and many nearby depts. Norwich provides ambulance svc. to Plymouth. Current apparatus is appropriate for the risk in the community. Response with the appropriate apparatus and members should be sufficient until mutual aid arrives, if necessary.

The relatively high median age, limits the number of ideal candidates for recruiting. During the last three years, the open animosity between the fire dept. and some members of the district have been difficult.

From January 2022 thru August 2025 average calls per month were 13.5; Plymouth responded to about 36% of dispatches, focused on non-EMS calls. The percentage of responses to calls has declined, on average, for each of the last three years. During this time period, there were 601 calls of which 291 or 36% had a response from Plymouth. Of this total, 242 were non-EMS - response was 61% with 359 EMS - response 20%.

Based on survey responses from current and former dept. members, half indicated they were unhappy with operational leadership and half were unhappy with the district.

The relationship between the fire chief, members and the district is not healthy. A third party (facilitator), needs to be involved to develop a relationship amongst the three parties to develop an understanding of all perspectives.

In conclusion, while operational and administrative tasks required by a chief are many, assistance to get them done can be delegated; however, there is a barrier between the chief and members that

needs to be addressed. Additionally, members feel the district does not understand their demands and do not feel valued for their contributions.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The fund-raising request schedule for 2026 will be submitted in February.

Training report: no training was held; a work night report was submitted (apparatus and equipment checks). The training schedule for January 2026 was submitted. Course opportunities for training: None. Ian Monzo's OFPC reports are complete and have been received.

Fitting for Josh Merritt's turnout gear is to take place this upcoming week. Fire End & Croker will take the extra set of turnout gear back with them when they come to do the fitting.

Cory stated three potential new members are being considered for acceptance into the fire dept.

Fire Advisory Council: radio system is moving along. Tentative go live date is 2026. Portables, mobiles and base stations will be inventoried and sent to depts. for storage. Training for depts. will be done before going live with the system. East Hill tower plans to start building in spring. Changes coming in OFPC. NYS designing "MayDay" courses. New version of BEFO/IFO class coming out soon. County looking at pump testing in late spring 2026. Struggling with fire investigations; struggle is getting people qualified. Not enough hazmat members to respond to calls. Next advisory meeting scheduled 1-14-26.

CALL LOG

12-02-25	MVA (1); Mutual aid - Norwich (cancelled) 4@; MVA (cancelled) 4@	12-13-25	MVA (1)
12-04-25	MVA (2)	12-16-25	ME x 2**
12-05-25	MVA (3)	12-21-25	Mutual aid - Norwich (cancelled) 4@
12-11-25	Mutual aid - Norwich (4)	12-27-25	Mutual aid - Norwich (cancelled) 2@
12-12-25	Vehicle fire (1) 2@	12-29-25	ME**

(**denotes no response)

() denotes # of personnel who responded

(@) denotes # of personnel at station

The 11-29 Christmas parade report was submitted.

Status of fire call reports: Cory stated all reports are complete as of 1-01-26.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Patty motioned to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Renee and was carried. The board reviewed the following bank statements: NBT General Fund dated 11-17 thru 12-14-25, NBT General Fund Checking dated 12-01 thru 31-25, Community Bank capital fund statement dated 12-01 thru 31-25, Community Bank maintenance fund statement dated 12-01 thru 31-25. Bob submitted the treasurer's end of year report for 2025. Bob is working on the 2025 annual year end treasurer state audit report, which is due in Albany by the end of February. Renee motioned to pay bills on Abstract

#499 totaling \$15703.61. Seconded by Brendan and was carried. WEX gas card svcs. - cost \$41.33; open Spectrum acct. - cost \$100; cascade bottles & connections - cost \$9725.66; Westcott Electric for generator svc. - cost \$766; Jerome Fire Equip. for face masks - cost \$1933.45.

COMMUNICATIONS

The hall has been scheduled for use on the following dates: 1-21 K/L engine show mtg.; 2-01 Strain rental.

Jackie presented the hall use end of year report for 2025.

The form for reporting on the annual 2% insurance tax monies was given to Cory. Report is due March 1st.

OLD BUSINESS

Work orders update: . status of sound proofing of the meeting hall: work is scheduled to start 1-14

- . floor repair hall side: latest estimate, \$29000. This will be revisited in the future. HOLD
- . paint peeling on floor of truck bay: again, call in to Sal
- . painting of the meeting hall and bathrooms: work is scheduled to start 1-14
- . lights over front of truck bay doors: additional problems found, will obtain updated estimates
- . replace the screws on the entire perimeter of the roof and the ridge cap: will shop around for further quote. HOLD
- . check screen replacement of windows, weed killer around building, outside for rust:
- . four additional tables for hall use: HOLD for funding
- . baseboard trim for hall and hall restrooms: Brendan will obtain pricing
- . truck bay men's room heater:

Grants: nothing new to report; Renee will keep watching. VFIRE grant is for building and equipment, so when it opens, she'll apply for SCBAs. She requested to purchase Microsoft Office for approximately \$250 to help with her grant applications. Patty motioned to approve purchase. Seconded by Les and was carried.

2025 DEC forestry grant status: application deadline was 12-22. Cory stated should have a decision in February.

Recall notice on the back up camera on truck 2751: Cory stated the truck is going to Matthews on 1-21.

Hose and ladder testing: First Two Svcs. out of West Monroe submitted a quote of \$2800. Brendan motioned to have them do the testing. Seconded by Renee and was carried.

Inspections for trucks 271,272 and 276 will be done next week.

Bob is working on the Cancer and Term insurance reports for the state which are due.

NEW BUSINESS

The Active Member Standard Report for 2025 was submitted.

Tires for UTV and trailer: work in progress.

Explore improving fire services for the community covered by Plymouth Fire District.

Consolidation, Merger, Deactivation, Dissolution, Fire protection contracts, Hiring a fire chief, etc.: working strategic plan and consulting svcs. Next step is fact gathering with groups involved. CGR set date for report. Presentation has been done.

Lee's Truck & Car Repair in Pitcher did the inspection on truck 272. Cory stated it passed DOT inspection, has wiring issues and there are some body rust spots. This was a verbal report and not a written report as requested.

Regarding Line Officer Qualifications policy: again, HOLD, not enough time to review, too many others issues going on.

Status of fire call reports: Harold confirmed all reports are complete as of 1-01-26.

Regarding motion to accept fire dept. officers' election results: two options were discussed. Vote each position individually or vote on the group of positions as a whole. Patty motioned to vote to accept the group of dept. line officers as a whole as the slate was presented. Seconded by Renee with five nos., was not carried. A new vote is to be conducted by the fire dept. and presented at the February fire district meeting.

Bob presented the fire district end of year report for 2025.

The fuel log report for 2025 was not submitted.

The fire dept. end of year report for 2025 was not submitted.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

None

OTHER

2026 annual inventory report is due at February's meeting.

Sherri and Patty will meet to complete the internal end of year audit report for 2025.

An updated Certified Driver/Operators list for 2026 is due at February's meeting.

Renee motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the Bassett Healthcare Network Svcs. contract. Seconded by Brendan and was carried. Contract goes from a two-year contract to a one-year contract.

Patty motioned to enter executive session and requested Chief Sanford be present, at 9:10 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular person, matters of appointment, employment, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person. Seconded by Brendan and was carried. Les motioned to adjourn executive session and return to regular meeting at 10:04 p.m. Seconded by Brendan and was carried. No action was taken.

WORK IN PROGRESS

(will move these things up for Board Action as background information/reports completed)

Bob adjourned meeting at 10:40 p.m.