

2024 Board of Director
Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2024 Board of Directors Meeting
December 18, 2024

2024 Board of Directors:

President Fiona Witkowski (FW)	Present	Director Robert Franz (RF)	Present
Vice President Seth Fischer (SF)	Present	Director Eric Kramer (EK)	Present
Secretary Brian Canty (BC)	Phone	Director Lehti Laas (LL)	Phone
Treasurer James Mallilo (JM)	Present	Director Betty Wood (BW)	Present
Chief William Connolly (WC)	Present		

Guests: Hank Waldron, Bernard Poole, Chief Elect Dominic Heavey, Roger Winter, Mary Winter, James Kelly, Lily Poplawski

Meeting called to order at: 19:28 hours.

For disposition of new members see the Secretary's Report.

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Eric Kramer to approve the minutes of November 21, 2024 **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Proposals-

TOHCC Alison Russo Memorial Scholarship

Subscription to Slack Communications

Upgrade our public website

Motion to pass SOP change 05-2024 (Tabled)

Agreement to review the Squad's Workers Compensation Policies

Purchase of a Golf Simulator for Recruitment and Retention (Tabled)

Purchase of a Table for the Ready Room (Tabled)

Hire a pool of 10 EMT-Bs

Use of the General Meeting Room Saturday December 28, 2024 – Tiffany Gonzalez

Suspension of Overnight Sweatshirt Purchase 4th Quarter

Motion for the Alison Russo Memorial Scholarship

Motion by Chief Bill Connolly and seconded by James Mallilo to donate \$500.00 to the Town of Huntington Chiefs Council for the creation of an Alison Russo scholarship. This scholarship will be given annually by the TOHCC. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving student from the second division who demonstrates a commitment to public service, leadership, and community involvement, reflecting the values and dedication of Alison Russo.

By approving this motion, we honor the memory of Alison Russo and support the next generation of public servants who will continue her legacy of dedication and service.

HCFAS Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to pay for a subscription to Slack Communications

Motion by Chief Bill Connolly and seconded by President Fiona Witkowski to buy a subscription to Slack Communications for the purpose of streamlining the QA/QI process. This communication company is HIPAA compliant and came with recommendation from our Medical Director. The aim is to make QA/QI a more seamless integration as well to help communication between officers and other committees. We have used this platform in the past

and the Second Deputy feels it will be beneficial for the origination to improve communications. This will be implemented and administered by Second Deputy Chief Rubenstein.

Total price will be \$1,128 for 12 months. This is the tax-exempt price.

HCAD Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to upgrade our public website

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Treasurer Jim Mallilo to upgrade our public website from DNN to WordPress and include a news module which would enable social media posts.

Total price including website hosting by Grim Media and 16 hours of website maintenance not to exceed \$3960.00, Fiona Witkowski will oversee this project.

HCAD Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to approve SOP 05-2024 (Administrative Personnel) as amended

Motion by Betty Wood and seconded by Brian Canty to approve SOP 05-2024 as amended. Amended motion distributed to BOD 12-18-24.

Discussion Followed.

Motion by Betty Wood, seconded by Eric Kramer to table.

No Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Enter into an agreement to review the Squad's Workers Compensation Policies

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Eric Kramer to approve an agreement with Premium Paybacks, a division of Workers Compensation Consulting Services LLC, 1642 63rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11204. The agreement covers a complete review of HCFAS's currently issued and past workers compensation and volunteer ambulance workers compensation policies and audits. The fee for the services is 40% of the actual refunds, credits or reduced workers compensation and volunteer ambulance workers compensation premiums received from HCFAS's insurance carrier NYSIF. The fee only applies to the premiums for the current, past and twelve months following the commencement of the agreement. It does not apply to any credits or refunds past that time. The President is authorized to sign the agreement with Premium Paybacks and Director Franz is authorized to sign any authorization letters etc. with NYSIF, NYWCB etc.

No funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion for the Purchase of a Golf Simulator for Recruitment and Retention

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Eric Kramer to authorize the purchase of the golf simulator SKYTRAK+ Golf Simulator Studio Pro for use by the volunteer EMS agency as part of a recruitment and retention initiative. The simulator will be used to provide a recreational and team-building activity that encourages participation, fosters camaraderie, and supports member engagement in both social and recruitment efforts. The Golf simulator will remain in South 5. The rules state the projector will stay on top of the simulator and the launch monitor will have to be returned to the designated spot next to South 5. Bid Forms completed. Rules circulated.

Total cost not to exceed \$ 5,000.00.

Oversight

This purchase and use of this equipment will be managed by Chief William Connolly, Chair of retention committee Michelle Franco, Ex-Chief Mike Como, Ex-Chief David Kaufman and Third Deputy Matthew Philip who will ensure that the funds are used appropriately and that the simulator is integrated effectively.

Motion to table by Fiona Witkowski, seconded by Eric Kramer.

..... **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

HCFAS Funds

Motion for the Purchase of a Table for the Ready Room

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Betty Wood to authorize the purchase of a white oak table for the Ready Room. This new table will be 10' x (L) by 3'6" (W), made of white oak with the Squad logo in the middle of the table. Bid forms completed.

Cost not to exceed \$12,000.00

Project will be overseen by Third Deputy Chief Elect Matt Philip.

Motion to table by Robert Franz, seconded by Lehti Laas.

..... **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

HCFAS Funds

Untable Motion to hire a pool of 10 EMT-Bs

Motion by Eric Kramer, seconded by Chief William Connolly to untable the below motion from the 11/21/2024 meeting:

..... **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Eric Kramer to address staffing shortages and improve service to the community. The proposed motion is to hire 10 EMT-B (Emergency Medical Technician - Basic) employees. This addition will help alleviate current staffing challenges and enhance the agency's ability to provide quality care to the community. The EMT-B employees will be scheduled as needed. The EMT-B employees will be the crew leader and operations will provide drivers. The rate of pay will be \$23.00 an hour. The lead medic will be in charge of scheduling the EMTs. The key benefits are addressing staffing shortages, ensuring adequate coverage, improving response times, and enhancing community care.

HCAD Funds **MOTION Not Carried – Yes (WC, EK)**

..... **NO (BC, BF, BW, JM, LL)**

Motion to confer Life Membership on 1 member who has served 25 years

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Brian Canty to grant a change of Membership classification from 20-Year Exempt Membership to Life Membership for Nancy Courtemanche, member #978, who meets the criteria of 25 years of Active service to the organization on December 20th, 2024, according to Article III Section 6 of the Bylaws:

No Funds **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Use of the General Meeting Room Saturday December 28, 2024 – Tiffany Gonzalez

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by President Fiona Witkowski to permit Tiffany Gonzalez (# the use of the General Membership Meeting Room in accordance with the HCFAS General Meeting Room Use Application and Rules to conduct a repasse for her Grandmother on

Saturday December 28, 2024 from 12PM to 6PM. Set-up will be on **Saturday December 28, 2024** from 5pm and cleanup will be directly after the event. Food service will be by the member. There will be no outside vendors, so the certificates of insurance will not be needed. The member is responsible for contacting the President or Chief in a timely manner for pre- and post-inspections of the room. The calendar has no events scheduled for this date and time.

No Funds **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Suspension of Overnight Sweatshirt Purchase 4th Quarter

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty seconded by James Mallilo to suspend the purchase and distribution of the 4th overnight sweatshirts until such time as a proper accounting and distribution of the 3rd quarter sweatshirts is provided to the Board of Directors.

No Funds **MOTION CARRIED** – Yes (BC, BF, BW, JM, LL)
..... NO (WC, EK)

Treasurer's Report – James Mallilo

November 13, 2024 to December 13, 2024

HCAD - 65 Checks & 10 Direct Debit Totaling \$ 139,606.69

HCFAS – 9 Checks & 1 Direct Debits Totaling \$19,442.22

Chief Report – William Connolly

Equipment & Vehicles

16: In quarters.

17: In quarters. Mileage 21,709

18: In quarters Mileage 50911

19: In quarters. Mileage 83,832 OOS

20: In quarters. Mileage 85,685

21: In quarters. Mileage 33,780

80: In quarters. Mileage 7,974

81: In quarters. Mileage 94,966

82: In quarters.

88: In quarters Mileage 25,232

89: In quarters

Equipment: New ALS Safes are currently awaiting scheduling with Proliner.

Paramedic Program- No report submitted by Lead Medic

Secretary's Report - Brian Canty

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Chief William Connolly to grant the following Leaves of Absences:

<u>Change of Status</u>				
978	Courtemanche	Nancy	20 Year Exempt	Life Member

<u>Leave of Absence</u>							
Memb#	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	LOA Start	LOA End	Type	Notes

2024 Board of Director

1174	Cortes	Israel	Friday 1900	1/20/2025	3/20/2025	OLOA	
83	Hershkowitz	Annette	Wednesday 1100	1/1/2025	4/1/2025	OLOA	
1570	Terrones-Nunez	Leonardo	Tuesday 1500	12/27/2024	3/27/2025	MLOA	Surgery
1736	Vasquez	Jose	Sunday 2300	9/5/2024	1/5/2025	MLOA	Car Accident

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Shift Change

<u>Member #</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1671	Bacchus	Sheon	Monday 1900	Company 8	12/11/2024	Work
1280	Bartolomeo	Dale	Wednesday 2300	Friday 2300	1/24/2025	
1692	Caraval	Paul	Friday 2300	Friday 1900	12/13/2024	
853	O'Brien	Hugh	Thursday 1900	Monday 1100	11/18/2024	
1631	Philip	Matthew	Saturday 2300	Company 8	12/11/2024	Work

Return to Duty

<u>Member #</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Day & Shift</u>	<u>LOA End</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>RTD Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1618	Edwards	Nerissa	Sunday 1100	10/7/2024	LODMLOA	11/26/2024	Disp Only

Short Hours Co8 - First Letter

1208	Davis	Keith	3
1576	Hastava	Alexander	5.5
1555	Kallergis	Katherine	3.75
1592	Tamayo	Keith	3
1399	Wuestman	Elizabeth	4

No Show's

<u>Member #</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Date of Offense</u>	<u>Day & Shift</u>
1549	Savaglio	Joseph	12/10/2024	Tuesday 1900

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Robert Franz to grant active membership in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the By-Laws to Annabella Matheus Member #1718, effective 12/18/2024.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Bob Franz Report

Welcome and congratulations to our new 2025 Directors Poole and Waldron and Chief Dominick Heavey. I look forward to working with you in the new year.

Insurance

VAWBL and Workers' Compensation, DBL & PFL Employee – All policies have been renewed for 2025 with the NYSIF. Required notices will be posted.

VFIS Accident Policy – Policy has been renewed effective 11/27/24. Copy of policy is left in the insurance mail folder for members.

WAWBL and WC Loss audit: Motion is on the agenda to approve an agreement with Premium Paybacks, a division of Workers Compensation Consulting Services LLC, 1642 63rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11204. The agreement covers a complete review of HCFAS's currently

issued and past workers compensation and volunteer ambulance workers compensation policies and audits. Their fee is 40% of any recoveries. During the summer of 2023, approximately \$13,500 was recovered during their audit at that time. The WCB awarded a past member continued medical benefits for an injury incurred in 8/18/10.

Continued Driver Training (Based on the Squad's 5 year loss history review)

I am waiting for confirmation of firm date(s) from VFIS to come in and present a 4 -8 hour class "Emergency Responder Safety It's Your Responsibility" for our drivers. Based on communications with the Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein, the Chief and Driving Training Committee Co-Chair Dominic Heavey we gave tentative dates of January 14 and 15, 2025.

Suffolk County Legislation

I attended and spoke at the SC Legislature meeting on Tuesday afternoon in support of a Proposed Local Law Resolution 2024-1997 sponsored by Legislator Rebecca Sanin. The law would improve the County's Affordable Housing Programs for volunteer firefighters and Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Previously I emailed my comments on the proposed resolution.

The legislature decided that the proposed law needs more work and sent it back to the committee with the intent that it will be reintroduced in February 2025.

Andrea Golinsky had sent all Directors and Operational Officers a request to attend and speak at the legislature meeting and no response was received.

I hope the response will be pro-active in February.

The Towns of Huntington and Babylon recently passed resolutions for Affordable Housing for FF and EMS personnel in their towns.

NYS Legislation / 10% Property Tax Exemption

2024 NYS legislature bill S5000/ A4077A which would amend the GML to remove EMS from the limit on real property tax levies by local government will be reintroduced in 2025. This bill is being strongly advocated by Port Jefferson EMS and Chief Greg Miglino of South Country Ambulance.

NYSVARA- A zoom presentation made at 7pm today covered EMS Savvik Buying Group and Health Benefits for EMS providers. Email notice to membership was made on 12/11/24.

S2862 / A2121 -Authorizes municipalities to offer a real property tax exemption to certain volunteers who live in such municipality but who serve in a neighboring municipality. This bill was signed into law Chapter 372 by Governor Hochul on 9/27/24.

Members living in other School Districts other than Huntington and South Huntington will have to have their School District pass a resolution stating that it agrees to extend the benefits identified under RPTL 466-a to any volunteer FF or VAW who lives within the taxing jurisdiction, but provides such volunteer services to a neighboring School District under RPTL 466-1. This applies not only to School Districts but to villages, Towns and County.

(Summary Note: In 2023 the NYS legislature passed a law that repealed all property tax exemptions granted under RPTL 466 and passed a new statewide exemption under RPTL 466-a which allowed a 2 year eligibility rather than a 5 year eligibility. All School Districts passed resolutions and opted into the new law by granting the exemption in December and

January 2024 rather than waiting until January 2025 but missing under the new law was the above law signed in September.)

Billing: The Direct Payment law goes into effect on January 1, 2025. The law authorizes payments to non-participating providers of ambulance services licensed under article 30 of the public health law. Insurance companies will have to send ambulance service bill payments directly to the provider of the services and not the patient. (This should stop the practice of some patients keeping the payment and not remitting it to the service provider who then has to incur legal action costs and fees to collect a lesser amount)

NYS Legislative 2025 Agendas: Agendas for the NYSVARA and FASNY are posted on the bulletin board.

10% Property Tax Exemption

The 2024/2025 property tax bills are being sent out by the Town of Huntington. All members who qualified with two years of service as of 3/1/24 received their exemption. If eligible, we will submit members' new application or renewal for the 10% property tax exemption by the deadline date of March 1st including a certification of your Years of Service. Application forms will be distributed to the members.

Old Business—

New Business—

Betty Wood discussed the SOP regarding that if you were accepted after January 1, 2016 you must keep your EMT certification. Just reminding everyone that in accordance with our attorney you must maintain your EMT Card.

Betty Wood would like us to consider including paid personal in our good and welfare policies.

Secretary Canty reported that they received one bid back for the first responder vehicle for \$234,000.

Projects / Events—

None

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by treasurer James Mallilo to go into executive session 21:27.

.....**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Betty Wood to adjourn the meeting at 21:38 hours.

.....**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Canty
Secretary

306 Draft sent to Board members: 01/03/2025

307

308 Amended and approved: 01/20/2025

309 **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

310

Approved January 20, 2025