

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
DeWITT FIRE DISTRICT  
DeWITT, NEW YORK

May 13, 2025

**Call to Order:** Mr. Vander Molen called the meeting to order at 6:45PM.

**Pledge:** Captain Pienkowski

**Public Hearing:** At a Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Fire District, of the Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York, held at the DeWitt Fire District, 4500 E. Genesee Street, DeWitt, New York, in said town on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, commencing at 6:45PM:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vander Molen.

PRESENT: Mr. Vander Molen, Mr. Huyck, Mr. Militi, Mr. Skahen, and Mr. Upton.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Fusco, Chief Green, Capt. Pienkowski, LT Dixon, President Steinberg, Officer Dillabough.

**Establishment of Multiple Tax Zones Within the DeWitt Fire District**

WHEREAS, Town Law Section 176 (27) authorizes a fire district to create one or more tax zones within the fire district;

WHEREAS, several commercial and industrial structures have been constructed within the fire district which require specialized equipment, apparatus and training for proper protection;

WHEREAS, the fire district has need to maintain additional apparatus, equipment and training of personnel for the protection of areas in the tax zones;

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the DeWitt Fire District in the Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York (the "District") desires to form one or more tax zones within the fire district for the primary purpose of funding the purchase, maintenance and operation of specialized apparatus, related equipment and corresponding training for protection of commercial/industrial structures within the tax zones;

WHEREAS, the Fire District has determined that all of the property, property owners and interested persons within the proposed zone are benefited by the creation of the district(s) and will enjoy benefits greater than are conferred upon the remainder of the district by additional use of the specialized apparatus and equipment, and that all property or

property owners benefited and who enjoy such benefits are included within the limits of such zone(s);

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the DeWitt Fire District in the Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York (the “District”) hereby resolves (by the favorable vote of not less than three-fifths of all its members), as follows:

Section 1. The secretary of the district is hereby ordered to cause notice of a public hearing to be held at the Fire District fire house on the 13th day of May, 2025, to be published in the newspaper having general circulation in the district at least 10 days but not more than 20 days prior to the public hearing, and posted on the sign board of the town clerk and district secretary at least 20 days prior to the hearing, and to provide sufficient copies of the proposed resolution and the attached schedule of tax parcels to the town clerk and fire district secretary, for inspection by the public, in those offices;

Mr. Vander Molen gave a presentation on fire districts, how they operate, and the purpose of establishing multiple tax zones within the DeWitt Fire District. Discussion was then opened to the public. There were eight individuals in attendance.

A resident thanked the Board for the explanation and provided feedback on the district working better with the Town to distribute information to the residents, as well as improving the district’s website.

A resident thanked the Board for the explanation and had some follow-up questions.

A resident and business owner in the Town thanked the Board for their explanation and as a business owner understood the need and reason behind the change.

A resident stated that the Board needed to improve their website and thought the District should notify the business owners of the tax rates now.

With no further question from the Board or the public, the public hearing was closed at 7:20PM.

### **Resolution to Establish Multiple Tax Zone in the DeWitt Fire District**

WHEREAS, Town Law Section 176 (27) authorizes a fire district to create multiple tax zones within the fire district;

WHEREAS, several commercial structures recently have been constructed within the district which require an aerial truck for protection;

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the DeWitt Fire District in the Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York (the “District”) desires to form one or more tax zones within the fire district for the primary purpose of funding the purchase, maintenance and operation of specialized apparatus, related equipment and corresponding training for protection of commercial/industrial structures within the tax zones;

WHEREAS, the Fire District has determined that all of the property, property owners and interested persons within the proposed zone are benefited by the creation of the district(s) and will enjoy benefits greater than are conferred upon the remainder of the district by additional use of the specialized apparatus and equipment, and that all property or property owners benefited and who enjoy such benefits are included within the limits of such zone(s);

WHEREAS, notice of the public hearing was provided to the newspaper having general circulation in the district at least 10 days but not more than 20 days prior to the public hearing, and posted on the sign board of the town clerk and district secretary at least 20 days prior to the hearing, and to provide sufficient copies of the proposed resolution and the attached schedule of tax parcels to the town clerk and fire district secretary, for inspection by the public, in those offices;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held to take public comment on the proposed resolution on the 13th day of May, 2025;

WHEREAS, at least three of the five fire district commissioners believe it to be in the public interest to form such tax zones within the district;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the DeWitt Fire District in the Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County, New York (the "District") hereby resolves (by the favorable vote of not less than three-fifths of all its members), as follows:

SECTION 1. The District is hereby authorized to form multiple tax zones including the entire portions of those tax parcels attached to this resolution as Schedule 1.

SECTION 2. Such tax zone shall become effective immediately.

SECTION 3. Such tax zones shall fully or partially fund the purchase, operation and maintenance of specialized fire apparatus and related equipment and corresponding training of personnel, as may be later approved by the voters of the fire district.

PASSED 5 AYES – Vander Molen  
Huyck  
Militi  
Skahen  
Upton

**Minutes:** A motion by Mr. Huyck, seconded by Mr. Upton to approve the minutes of the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting. All Commissioners present voting in the affirmative, except Mr. Militi who abstained. Motion approved.

**Reports of Officer's:** Chief Green reported the following:

1. The new CPR device that was recently purchased was used successfully the other day.
2. He attended the Annual Leadership Conference sponsored by the IAFC Eastern Division in Lake George.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Fusco reported the following:

1. The April financials were distributed prior to the meeting.

**Vouchers:** Ms. Fusco presented the Abstract of Claims Report. (Addendum "A"). Motion made by Mr. Militi, seconded by Mr. Skahen, to approve the General Fund Pre-paid transfer and ACH's amounting in total to \$244,111.90. Also, pending checks (35399– 35427) and ACH's amounting in total to \$540,546.72. All Commissioners present voting in the affirmative. Motion approved.

**Bank Reconciliation:** Motion made by Mr. Militi, seconded by Mr. Upton, to approve the bank reconciliations for April 2025. All Commissioners present voting in the affirmative. Motion approved.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Response Statistics:**

	DATE	GENERAL	E.M.S.	TOTAL
Year-To-Date Response Stats:	04/30/2025	494	581	1,075
	04/30/2024	277	480	757

**Training Requests:** A motion by Mr. Huyck and seconded by Mr. Upton to authorize the following training requests. All Commissioners present voting in the affirmative. Motion approved.

1. Mr. Steinberg – annual conference – no cost to District
2. FF Cruz – OIPC Cargo Trucking – 24 hours of shift coverage

**Building Use Request:** None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Apparatus and Equipment:**

1. The new pumper will be arriving soon. The back cabinet is being painted and installed.
2. Received change orders for new engine. Will compile and share at next meeting.
3. R-14: bumper warranty work is being performed. Will be back in service by weekend.

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

1. Compiling a list of needs for Station 2 for the LDC. The fob system will impact both stations.
2. HVAC PM work is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

**Finance:** Bond principal and interest payment is due June 1<sup>st</sup>. The total payment amount is \$470,025.

**Long-Range Planning:** Mr. Vander Molen met with Jamesville Fire District to discuss staffing issues.

### **Personnel/Staffing:**

1. The two new recruits are in week 14 of the academy and doing well. Graduation is scheduled for next week.

**Legal:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Paramedic School Reimbursement:**

A motion by Mr. Upton and seconded by Mr. Huyck, to authorize reimbursement to FF Minckler in the amount of \$3,050 for paramedic school, per the collective bargaining agreement. All Commissioners present voting in the affirmative. Motion approved.

### **Gas Meter Replacement:**

A motion by Mr. Milioti and seconded by Mr. Upton, to authorize the replacement of gas meters for both Station 1 and Station 2 in an amount not to exceed \$7,000. All Commissioners present voting in the affirmative. Motion approved.

**Simulation Mannequin Repair:**

A motion by Mr. Huyck and seconded by Mr. Militi, to authorize the repair of the mannequin simulation in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. All Commissioners present voting in the affirmative. Motion approved.

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Mr. Vander Molen, seconded by Mr. Militi, to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Motion approved at 7:50PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Vander Molen, seconded by Mr. Skahen, to return to the General Session. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Motion approved at 9:25PM.

No business was conducted during the Executive Session.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn by Mr. Vander Molen, seconded by Mr. Skahen. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioners: Huyck, Militi, Skahen, Upton, and Vander Molen. Chief Green, Ms. Fusco, Mr. Steinberg, Captain Pienkowksi, LT Dixon.

Kerrie Fusco  
Secretary  
May 13, 2025