

April 17, 2018

**Floral Park Fire Department**  
**Final Report 2017/2018**  
**Chief of Department**  
**Michael Longobardi**

‘Mayor Dominick Longobardi, Deputy Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Fire Commissioner and Trustee Dr. Lynn Pombonyo, Trustee Archie Cheng, Trustee Frank Chiara, Members of the Village Administration, Chiefs, Members of the Department, Residents and Guests.

I stand before you tonight relaxed, relieved, and very, very grateful that it is over; of course, I’m talking about tax season but more important I stand before you tonight extremely honored and humbled as Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department to give my final report for the year 2017-2018. I am honored and humbled by the trust the amazing, hard-working dedicated men and women of this Department gave me for the past year. They are the most amazing group and I thank you.

This is the status of our department:

**Membership:**

The Department currently has 182 members consisting of the following:

Active membership is 149 including 110 firefighters and EMS, 25 Ex-Chiefs, 4 Honorary Chiefs, 10 Probationary members.

29 Associate Members  
4 Chaplains

This year we swore in 7 new members and had 11 resignations.

**Alarms:**

It is obvious that the most important thing we do is respond to emergencies to assist those in need of some sort of help or assistance. We respond to many types of incidents including gas leaks, auto accidents, odors, electrical problems, smoke and CO detector activations, EMS calls and fires, just to name a few. Those 182 people I just spoke about handle these alarms with the most amazing professionalism, coupled with the best care and compassion possible. For the year:

EMS calls:	1,025
Fire calls:	231
Auto accidents:	53
Hazmat/Hazmat related:	43

Carbon monoxide alarms/incidents:	37
Mutual aid to other towns:	<u>33</u>
Total calls:	1,422

Another number we look at is total fire loss for the year. This is the estimated damage caused by fire and events that we are called to. This year total fire loss is approximately \$80,000. I am happy to report it is low and I hope it is the result of our aggressive fire prevention education program coupled with the great quick work of our members at calls.

### **Training:**

Responding to calls at all hours of the day and night 24/7/365 is only one aspect of the time and commitment given by our 100% volunteer professionals. From the first day you take your oath to serve, your hands-on training begins and never stops. There is no better example of this than our senior advanced emergency medical technicians who are retired, in their seventies, on top of their game, show no signs of slowing down and are in the process of recertifying as AEMTs.

Probationary firefighters in their first year alone take numerous classes including probationary training and essentials of firefighting at the fire academy along with an in-house training program and several on-line classes for a total of around 120 hours of training. All firefighters participate in monthly in-house drills as well as many, many hours of training at various calls, hands-on drills offered elsewhere and annual department operations training at the fire academy in Bethpage. Department operations are hands-on training in structures simulating house fires, building fires, warehouse fires, commercial structures and apartment towers, just to name a few. On the EMS side, the commitment is just as great if not greater. Our EMTs put in over 120 hours as well as take a NYS test just to get their certification. Each year after, they spend numerous hours at continuing medical education classes as well as regular drills. This year our department hosted an EMT recertification class. All members participate in periodic department drills, drills with other departments, an annual MOBEX drill where we interact with FDNY and an annual battalion drill focused on the First Battalion in Nassau County. This year the department trained on hose handling, ladder operations, propane emergencies, vehicle extrication, safety ropes and PSS training, gas emergencies, hazmat, carbon monoxide response, CPR an AED, firefighter removal, thermal imaging camera, forcible entry, mask confidence, officers training, managing maydays and incident command are just to name a few. This year our members accumulated 5,704.71 man hours on training; a testament to their professionalism and dedication. Thank you to Chief McAllister, Chief Naughton and their committee for all their hard work and dedication to the training program.

### **Probationary Training:**

As I mentioned above, we have our specialized in-house program to train our new members on how Floral Park operates and get them familiar with our equipment. Thank you to Chairman William Hecker and his committee for all their hard work and efforts with our new members. They are currently working with 10 probationary members.

### **Purchasing:**

This year there were 66 purchase orders and 128 vouchers processed. Thank you to Village Administrator/Treasurer Gerry Bambrick and Village Deputy Treasurer Kathleen Mack for all your help and assistance with our purchasing needs.

### **Medicals and Fit Testing:**

Each year our members are required to take an OSHA medical and interior firefighters are required to be fit tested for their SCBA mask. Thank you to Chief McAllister and William Hecker for overseeing these and ensuring our members are current.

### **Radios:**

Radio communications are an ongoing problem. We constantly strive to find solutions and improve on what is our most important piece of equipment: our ability to communicate. All vehicle and portable radios were tested and updated with the latest frequencies. During testing, three new low band and one high band vehicle radios were installed to replace weak outdated radios and help improve performance. We also updated both antennas on the newly installed repeater at HQ. We purchased and put into service 110 new Unication pagers. This improved our dispatching and ability to receive calls while saving over \$10,000 a year in repair costs of our old outdated pagers. A huge thank you to Chief Dave Maickel for all your hard work, help and support during this process which is ongoing as we now look into new portable radios.

### **Equipment:**

The Department has the following inventory of vehicles:

- 1992 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper
- 1998 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper
- 2002 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper
- 2004 Pierce Hook and Ladder 95" aerial
- 1984 Mack Heavy Rescue Truck
- 2003 Passenger Van
- 2015 Ford F450 Ambulance
- 1931 American LaFrance Antique Pumper
- 2008 Ford Expedition Chief Vehicle
- 2009 Chevy Tahoe Chief Vehicle
- 2013 Chevy Tahoe Chief Vehicle
- 2016 Chevy Tahoe Chief Vehicle
- 2017 Chevy Tahoe Chief Vehicle
- 2009 Ford Expedition Utility Vehicle
- 1982 GMC Truck

### **Work Orders:**

All that equipment is not easy to maintain but needs to be kept in top working order as someone's life may depend on it at any time. This year 69 vehicle work orders and 36 house work orders kept them going. Thank you to Superintendent Steve Siwinski, Deputy Kevin Ginnane and all the Village mechanics for all your hard work and dedication to this.

### **Pump, Ladder and Hose Testing:**

All ladders and hoses were tested as required. Any damaged hose was removed and replaced. All three engines went to the academy for their annual pump test. All equipment is in good working order.

### **Explorers:**

Our explorer program continues to thrive under the leadership of Chief Florio, Ex-Captain Goerke, their advisors and members. At this time, there are 10 active members and five advisors.

### **Fire Prevention:**

Our fire prevention is always ongoing through both inspection and education. Our formal inspection program has our members who have taken and passed the Assistant Fire Inspectors course go business to business and inspect and review what is going on and try to point out hazards to the business owners. This also gives us the opportunity to learn about what goes on in these businesses and pre-plan buildings for that unfortunate event should there be a fire. This information is documented in our red Alert notification system and prints out on reports available to us in the event of a call at these places. This year the department conducted 363 inspections. Thank you to Chief Arrigo and Chief Bennett for all your hard work organizing and overseeing this very important task. The education side involves formal programs as well as every day calls. When we enter a house or business, we are able to look and see if extinguishers and alarms are present, are they up to date and are they being maintained. It is still all too often we enter a home and there are smoke detectors hanging open because the battery went bad and was not replaced or there are no carbon monoxide detectors present. We talk to the home owners about this and stress the safety issues and need for immediate replacement. We also conduct firehouse tours and welcome groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and also visit groups in town. We show them the equipment and how we operate as well as provide handouts. This year, we coordinated seven separate tours between schools and various community organizations. Thank you to Chief Saville for all your efforts to make this a success.

And now I would ask for a moment to address some other items:

When I started five years ago on the Staff, many Chiefs who have been here before me came up and wished me luck and suggested I set an agenda and goals, which I had already done for myself. It goes quick so make it happen. Yes, it does go quick as now many are asking, "So did you accomplish what you set out to do? Did you accomplish what you wanted?" Well among

the list of things I did or accomplished with the assistance of other members working together includes:

- Upgrading our communications equipment including new pagers and new repeaters with new antennas;
- Introducing a new updated Probationary training program;
- Upgrade the Chiefs office and expand the command center capabilities adding new larger monitors on the truck floor/office with expanded red alert information screens
- Purchasing a new Department Van and converting the current van to a safety response vehicle loaded with additional equipment and giving our safety committee a better role in fire scene operations;
- Upgrades to our failing bottle station;
- Representing our Department on the Floral Park-Bellerose school safety committee and giving us a role in the safety of all our children in the Village while at school
- Assisting Active Company at reaching a final agreement for the expansion of the Active Firehouse and ordering the new truck;
- Establishing a regular segment on 4VS focused on the Fire Department history and educating our residents on what we do;
- Upgraded the budget and financial recording keeping of the office;
- And so much more as well as many things that are still in process like the upgrade to the supply garage, clean out and upgrade of Reliance attic for some much needed storage and beginning plans to hopefully renovate Firefighters' Hall for our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And my added notoriety around town as I walk in stores on Tulip Avenue and hearing "Hey you're the Chief at 54 – what's going on there?"

However, while some see these as accomplishments, I see it as simply doing things to make us better. The original plan you enter this office with never happens as you adapt and deal with what comes along. In the end, accomplishments are simply doing the job. There is only one goal that counts in my mind: did I do a good job, make the members proud and leave the Department in better shape than when I started. I hope everyone was proud of their Chief this year. I hope the Department is better off than they were when I started and I hope I have made advancements for the betterment of everyone. If I have done that, then yes, I have accomplished everything I set out to do.

None of this happens without many people involved and I would like to take a moment to thank some people.

Mayor Longobardi - Wow – we never expected this in a million years. It was an honor to serve as your First Chief with you as Mayor. You are an amazing brother and great Mayor (no bias there). Thank you for all your help and guidance on municipal operations and for all your support. With all the respect and love that comes with this, I will be returning in a few minutes to totally ignoring you again.

Board of Trustees: Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to support our agenda and goals and make us the best we can be for the residents we serve. All the conversations and

analysis and coming to the scene during emergencies to be there and support us are greatly appreciated.

Commissioner McAllister: It has been a pleasure working with you and developing a more interactive role between the Police and Fire Departments. We are the front line of safety and protection for the residents and I could not picture a better team. Thank you to all your officers and staff for a great job and their support for us.

To Gerry Bambrick, Susan Walsh, Sue Kerner, Lauren Killigrew and the entire staff at Village Hall: Thank you for all your hard work and help. You make the day-to-day things happen and it is very much appreciated. To Kathleen Mack, purchasing was one of my main functions for four years. Thank you for all your help and hard work. And, yes, I will still be doing purchasing.

To John Ryan: From the quick one minute questions to set down meetings in your office, your analysis and guidance is greatly appreciated.

To Chief O'Grady and Chief Wakely: Thank you for all your hard work in the office and keeping red alert up to date.

To Chief D'Amore, Chief Bennett, Chief Naughton and Chief Florio: Thank you for all your guidance and showing me the ropes as I made my way up the line to Chief. It was a pleasure working with you.

To my Staff: Chief Maickel, Chief Arrigo, Chief McAllister and Chief Saville. What can I say? What a great year it has been. I cannot thank you enough for all you did this year and the accomplishments we made along the way. Your dedication, hard work and support is very much appreciated not to mention the great laughs we had as well. I wish you all much success going forward and I'm here to help. Chief Dodson, welcome aboard and good luck. You have a great group here.

At this time I want to thank my family ...

Lastly but very important are the amazing members of the Floral Park Fire Department, my brothers and sisters, many of whom are in this room right now. Please take a moment and thank them for all they do. None of anything that has been mentioned here can be accomplished and done without their hard work and efforts. Their endless dedication and determination to be the best shows in everything they do whether it's a full blown fire or helping a person in need of aid or assistance or coming together in the face of our worst tragedies like the line-of-duty death of FDNY Lt. Michael Davidson and performing selflessly without hesitation and with the most amazing compassion. (Chief Longobardi read a letter which he just received sent to the Floral Park Fire Department from New York City Fire Chief Daniel A. Nigro thanking them for the outstanding service they provided to the family of Lt. Michael Davidson and the entire New York City Fire Department as they laid to rest their fallen hero.) A year ago I spoke of being one team and what an amazing team this department is. You are an amazing group of men and women and it is such an honor to stand as Chief at the scene and watch you work. Thank you for all you do and always stay safe.

It has truly been an amazing ride and to answer the question, yes, I would do it again.

Mayor Longobardi, Board of Trustees, as my final duty, it is my Honor to introduce an amazing group of dedicated gentlemen, the newly elected Chief's Staff of the Floral Park Fire Department for the 2018-2019 year:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Assistant Chief James Dodson from Alert Engine Co. #1;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Chief Michael Saville from Hook and Ladder Company #2
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Patrick McAllister from Active Engine Co. #3
- 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Salvatore Arrigo from Rescue Company #1
- Chief of Department Chief David Maickel from Reliance Engine Co. #2.

Mayor Longobardi, I now respectfully request to be relieved of my duties as Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Longobardi  
Chief of Department'