



**MENDON FIRE DISTRICT**  
**Board of Commissioner**  
**District Meeting Minutes (Approved)**  
**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



**ROLL CALL ( meeting called to order 19:00 hrs. on 01/08/2026 by R. Wilsey )**

PRESENT	NAME	CAPACITY	NOTES
Yes	Arman, Mike	MFD Vice President	Newly appointed Recruitment/Retention Officer
Yes	Baumer, Heidi	Treasurer	
Yes	Considine, Dan	Commissioner	
Yes	Fletcher, William	General Counsel	
Yes	Friedlander, David	MFD Deputy Chief	
Yes	Joint, Richard	Commissioner	
Yes	Chip Knapp	MFD President	
Yes	Sellman, Tom	Secretary	
Yes	Shipe, John	Commissioner	
Yes	Shuler, Steve	Commissioner	
Yes	Tschiderer, Steve	MFD, Chief	
Yes	Wilsey, Ryan	Commissioner (Chairman)	

**OTHER ATTENDEES NOTED**

NAME	CAPACITY	NOTES
Ryan Bowen	New Member Candidate	Introduction to the Board
Jared Brush	MFD Member	Solar Project Questions
Scott Goodman	Rush Fire District Board Chairman	FOIL request
Mike Principe	MFD Member	

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

FOIL Request Status

Scott Goodman inquired about the status of FOIL request presented at the November meeting. Counsel Fletcher apologized for the continued delay, explaining the delay has been a side effect of the workflow backup caused by recent District project reviews that required time sensitive contract review. Counsel indicated he would be responding in the next week, as approved by Mr. Goodman.

**CALENDAR / MEETING ROOM REQUEST REVIEW**

R. Wilsey motioned to approve the following room request. This was seconded by R. Joint and passed by unanimous consent: 5-0-0.

03-14-2026 Family Birthday Party for C. Battle’s son 3-9 PM <Chris Battle sponsor>

Secretary Sellman inquired if the Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> date is to be kept for the budget hearing, as historically it’s been held on the Tuesday of that week. Consensus of the Board was to keep it as scheduled.



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### **NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION**

President Knapp introduced Ryan Bowen, a new member candidate for the Department. Most notable is that he was recruited by two neighbors (N. Rovik & B. Schmitt) who are current Department members. Ryan was thanked for his interest and welcomed by the Board.

### **SECRETARY ITEMS**

#### **Past Meeting Minutes**

R. Wilsey motioned to approve the meeting minutes for both December 9<sup>th</sup> and Special December 20<sup>th</sup> District meetings.

Commissioner Shuler began a discussion with an objection to the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting motion (as put forth by R. Wilsey [which passed by unanimous consent 4-0-0]) requiring attorney approval for the solar project to move forward. Shuler explained that to do so would usurp the Board's elected power to make final decisions. Shuler continued, saying it should have been cast as the "attorney would review and advise on the proposed solar project contract". During discussion, Counsel Fletcher expressed that he did not approve of the contract as presented and advised against its signing.

After discussion, S. Shuler motioned that the original motion be altered such that the solar project (as outlined in the December 20<sup>th</sup> District meeting) continue to move forward seeking attorney review and advisement, but with the removal of any approval contingency. This motion was seconded by R. Joint and passed by majority consent: 3 yes [ Shuler, Joint, Shipe], 2 no [ Considine, Wilsey ].

As a result of discussion and the new motion to amend the aforementioned Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> motion, the consensus was to approve both Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as accurate in their presentation of that which transpired at each meeting.

#### **District Election Times**

Secretary Sellman reminded the Board that at the Organizational meeting, the December 2026 District election times had been specified as 3 PM to 7 PM. Sellman observed that this would be in violation of the Town Law §175 which sets the minimal time for elections from 6 PM to 9 PM (though additional time may be prepended). To come into compliance, the Board resolved that the December 2026 District election times be changed to 4 PM to 9 PM.

#### **LOSAP 2025 Sponsor Approval**

Sellman submitted the 2025 LOSAP list of Department members and their Service Award Points, noting it has been sent to members and will be posted for the required 30 days. S. Shuler motioned that the listing be accepted and returned to the Dept. for posting. This was seconded by J. Shipe and approved by unanimous consent: 5-0-0.



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**SECRETARY ITEMS (cont.)**

**District Incentive Program Workshop**

Sellman initiated a discussion related to the upcoming January 28<sup>th</sup> workshop to review and analyze the results of the 2025 District Incentive program. One of the categories in the program provides money based on responding to a percentage of calls (which could be taken as a pay-per-call paradigm). He noted that the Assoc. of Fire District December newsletter contained an article indicating that NY State fire districts/departments cannot use their funds to pay stipends for calls (e.g. pay-per-call or paid-on-call) to volunteer firefighters without possibly jeopardizing benefits under VFBL (Volunteer Firefighters' Benefits Law). At the end of discussion, District Counsel Fletcher indicated he would be able to further analyze and come to a recommendation prior to the Jan 28<sup>th</sup>.

**District Correspondence**

Chief Tschiderer notified the Board members (through an email) of an observed violation of Rule #109 (in District Rules/Regulations) by Board member Shuler involving the operation of an MFD apparatus while using a personal cell phone. There was a brief Q & A session with no further action.

Sellman inquired as to who should get a reminder received from NFPA with respect to a "fire service needs assessment" – note was passed to Chief (commenting that he'd confirm if this was a duplicate of one he already took action on).

**MENDON FIRE DEPT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT ( by President Knapp )**

- Progress update given on New Members Building.
- Dept. members Greg Francesco & Ken Hampson given one-year appointments to the Dept. BOD.
- Dept. RAM M. Etter and member M. Javidnia recently completed their EMT certification.
- Permission was granted through consensus from the Board for the Department to hold a recruiting event at the Cottage Hotel.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

See **Appendix A** for content presented in Chief Tschiderer's report.

With respect to funds to convert the current 367 to a Chief's car, the consensus by the Board was to let District Administrator Sweet be the purchasing agent for the projected minimal materials.

With respect to a request for permission to seek a bid for a proposed 12-person van, the consensus of the Board was to table the issue until next month.



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**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Voucher & Reconciliation Review

Treasurer Baumer reviewed the voucher and reconciliation statements. See **Appendix B** for submitted content. She also initiated a brief discussion regarding year-end account reconciliations – noting that the QuickBooks® files have already gone to the accountant with a meeting scheduled on January 22 to finalize the audit.

Treasurer Baumer noted that with respect to the District Incentive budgeting, there was no increase in 2026 budget for recruitment/retention and given the anticipated monies required for payout, the 2027 budget should not neglect to address this area (which was overlooked in 2026). Secretary Sellman reviewed the executive summary of the expected payout for 2025 (not including any monies for call response as that’s under investigation) indicating the payout stands at \$ 34K.

R. Wilsey motioned to pay the bills and approve the Treasurer’s report – this was seconded by S. Shuler and passed by unanimous consent: 5-0-0

**OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Apparatus**

New 367: R. Joint gave a brief report indicating that Chief Tschiderer, Assist. Chief Kester and District Admin Sweet continue to move forward with the conversion effort between the current and new 367 vehicles.

Vehicle/Equip	Issues/Problems/Plans
364	No issue
365	No issue
367	No issue
3617	No issue
3618	No issue
Haul Trailer	No issue
3c16	No issue
3c26	Headlights - intermittent issue with left and right headlights alternating in losing their functionality. Sending to Mendon Autoworks for analysis.



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**Capital Projects / Special Projects** ( S. Shuler )

NYS VFIRE Grant Project

There was brief discussion regarding status of the Grant Project culminating with two motions to approve (a) signage of the general contract with Nichols Construction (**see Appendix D**), and (b) signage of contract Amendment No. 1 for acceptance of guaranteed Maximum Price ( \$287,226 ) (**see Appendix E**). In each case, R. Wilsey motioned for approval with a second by S. Shuler, both motions passing by unanimous consent: 5-0-0.

Discussion included description regarding reimbursement coordination with NY State: Mendon Fire District pays contractor and then submits for reimbursement from NYS.

Roof Replacement and Solar System Installation

S. Shuler notified the Board that there will be bi-weekly Teams meetings with the Energyware (Texas) folks. Steve invited anyone to be included in the meetings which are planned for Thursdays at 10 AM. Shuler expressly asked if District Counsel Fletcher would like to be included – with an affirmative response.

Shuler also noted that a personal representative is expected to come from Texas in the next week or so to review local standards and the permitting process.

**Personnel & Leadership** ( D. Considine )

District Administrator's Report

D. Considine motioned that the District Administrator's report (see **Appendix C**) be approved. This was seconded by S. Shuler and passed by unanimous consent: 5-0-0

D. Sweet submitted three items for approval. Of the three, items 'A' and 'B' below were approved by motions from R. Wilsey, seconded by J. Shipe and passed by unanimous consent: 5-0-0. After discussion, item 'C' was tabled.

- A) Poll Site Agreement from Monroe County Board of Elections reserving the Public meeting room from 5 AM to 10 PM on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup> (in return for total sum of \$100).
- B) Window cleaning contract with All Seasons Windows Cleaning Co. Four times per year @ \$ 148/cleaning.
- C) Fire alarm inspection contract proposal from Johnson Controls for \$ 4270. This needs to be shopped for competitive pricing.

Personal Time

D. Considine gave an update that he's been investigating necessary hours to be defined for (and candidate search assistance required) an individual to be a backup resource for District Administrator Sweet. This is input data necessary for planning out a sensible budget amount.



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**OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont.)**

**Personnel & Leadership** ( cont. )

**Recruitment & Retention**

M. Arman reviewed the two-fold need for funding: (a) refresh of printed marketing materials (e.g. posters), and (b) incentive money for member referrals since it seems referrals have been the most successful recruiting mechanism.

Deputy Chief Friedlander noted a similar program at RPD, but stressed the need for target quantifications that a referred candidate must achieve before any payment is made for the referral. This led to a review of the quantifications of the current District referral incentive.

**Information/Technology** (R. Wilsey)

Ryan reported that the iPads in the apparatus need to be replaced as they are all end-of-life cycle and there's a need for new computer monitor – total approximate expenditure of \$ 20K.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None brought forward.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**District Counsel Replacement**

Commissioner Wilsey notified the Board that it needs to start looking at finding a replacement for District Counsel Fletcher who is looking to vacate his position, possibly prior to the end of the 2026. Counsel Fletcher gave a summary regarding the characteristics/qualifications with respect to a replacement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

J. Brush presented the Board with a series of questions regarding the recent roof/solar panel project. When asked if a performance bond had been negotiated, Commissioner Shuler indicated that it had not, but a thirty percent holdback until completion had been. Brush also asked if the District was (a) fronting the money and then waiting for the rebate, and (b) is the vendor guaranteeing the rebate. Shuler answered yes to both aspects of the question.

There was discussion with respect to what warranty the vendor is providing. Shuler express an understanding is that warranties fell back to the manufacturer's warranties. Counsel Fletcher indicated the contract specifically says there is no warranty – and that the only recourse for the District is to have the vendor come and repair/replace. In the course of discussion, Brush asked when the current roof was placed in service – with a consensus answer of 17 years ago.



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**PUBLIC COMMENT (cont.)**

Brush expressed reservations about the project and the haste in which the decisions were made. He added that he's a supporter of solar systems, and in his opinion, the District's cost per kilowatt hour is favorable compared to his similar sized commercial installation, but his personal experience was that it took two years for the entire process (specification, installation/grant writing/rebates, etc.).

S. Tschiderer expressed objections to what he felt were high pressure sales tactics and that the contract was not sufficiently understood and vetted by those responsible for the final decision.

Counsel Fletcher voiced his concern that there would be subcontractors involved in the project of which the District has no control – no contractual relationship – which has the potential for being a large problem.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

At 20:08 R. Wilsey motioned to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by S. Shuler and passed by unanimous consent: 5-0-0.

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted by**

Tom Sellman,  
District Secretary,  
Mendon Fire District



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**APPENDIX A: Chief's Report**



**MENDON FIRE DISTRICT**  
 101 MENDON-IONIA RD  
 MENDON, NY 14506  
 www.mendonfd.org

January 2026 report:  
 4- Calls YTD

Calls of significance since the last meeting: N/A

The lack of qualified responders is a significant FF safety issue, as we need a team to respond effectively and efficiently.

2026	AVG YTD Enroute	AVG YTD On scene
364		
365		
367		
3617		

Average travel: 2.70 miles @ avg of 45 MPH - 3.36 Minutes of travel  
 NFPA station turn-out time is 90 seconds for a Fire call  
 In-house response time would be an average of 3.36+1:30= **5:06** or **\_\_\_ faster**

YTD avg attendance (on fire apparatus):

NFPA 1720: VOLUNTEER response standard: 6 qualified (**Interior**) arrive within 14 minutes, 80% of the time.

"Damage"- none

FFs on medical leave (NONLOSAP)-

- K Junge, D Considine, J Fischel, A Morrell

New business:

- PO's – no new
- NERIS transition – Red Alert
- Fleet plan
  - Current 367 to 3C-18
    - Request approval for \$500 or less in materials
  - Current 3C-16 to 3C-26
  - Current 3C-26 to 3C-36
- Request approval for the District to do a NYS bid for a 12-person Van
  - Fire Police
  - Training
  - Parades/General errands

Old business:

- Grants
  - DEC- Dryer
  - AFG- Portable Radio upgrade
  - SAFER- Training Officer
- DECON Seats : (Reburb, fund)
- Hose replacement- waiting for delivery
- Bunk room- survey results (21 valid responses)
  - #1 Shared workspace/office area (AVG rank: 3.46)
  - #2 A full bathroom located near (same floor) as the bunkrooms (AVG rank: 3.52)
  - #3 Individual bunk room (nonshared space w/ lockable door) (AVG rank: 3.67)
  - #4 Additional storage spaces/locations (AVG rank: 4.00)
  - #5 Individual bunk room with workspace/office (AVG rank: 4.14)
  - #6 Shared (open bay style) bunk room (AVG rank: 4.52)
  - #7 Individual workspace/office (AVG rank: 4.67)
- EV Items: Blanket (needs repair)
- Staffing- In-house duty shifts, per diem, career, consolidation; we need to address this growing safety concern



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**APPENDIX B: Treasurer's Voucher List**

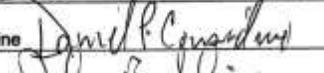
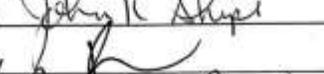
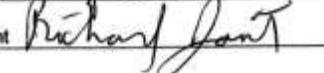
**January 2026 Meeting**

Payee	Amount
Autoworks of Mendon	126.19
Bound Tree Medical	240.45
Capital One Trade Credit (Weiders)	10.00
Dale Sweet	13.98
Davis Ulmer Sprinkler	150.00
Deckman Oil Company	275.70
Dival Safety	52.53
Doyle Security Systems, Inc.	318.12
Energyware, LLC	135,084.22
Healthworks	1,221.25
Honeoye Falls NAPA	54.94
Iconic Elements Inc	8,728.00
Interstate Battery System of Rochester	285.09
MES Service Company	9,029.64
Michelle Booth, Rec of Taxes	2.00
Mike Moreland's Lawn & Landscape	1,762.50
Monica Javidnia	104.00
Noticestry LLC	1,111.16
Saxby Implement	76.21
Sentinel Publications	177.75
The Hartford Steam Boiler	110.00
Tim DeRuyscher	10.95
Town of Mendon	296.58
<b>Bank Balances as of 1/6/2025</b>	<b>Balance</b>
CNB #5415 (checking)	\$125,308.78
CNB #5417 (savings)	\$301.81
CNB #4317 (Building Repair)	\$65,160.68
CNB #0817 (Capital)	\$29,636.48
Municipal CD (Checking)	\$0.00
Municipal CD (Capital)	\$656,842.88

Credit Card	
First Bank Card - Dan Considine	
First Bankcard- John Shipe	
First Bankcard- Ryan Wilsey	507.96
First Bankcard - Dale Sweet	519.51
First Bankcard - Steve Shuler	1,484.20
<b>AUTOPAY BILLS</b>	
ATT Mobility	\$271.11
ATT Mobility	\$148.67
Spectrum	\$149.99
Toshiba Financial Services	\$248.27
Benecare	\$4,051.16
Monroe County Water Authority	\$0.00

**TOTAL BILLS**  
**166,622.13**

Matures 1/26/26

Steve Shuler   
 Dan Considine   
 John Shipe   
 Ryan Wilsey   
 Richard Joint 



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**APPENDIX C: District Administrator Report (part 1 of 2)**

To: Dan Considine  
From: Dale E. Sweet

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Physicals:** Some more firefighters have gotten their physicals completed since your last meeting.

**Personnel:** Nothing new.

**Apparatus:**

- **E-364** is running ok. The "auto primer" was repaired by Har-Rob on 12/29/2025. A new gauge for the deck gun is on order.
- **E-365** is running ok. The tank fill valve was rebuilt and the tank to pump valve was found to be ok and did not require rebuilding. This was done by Har-Rob on 12/29/2025. We received replacement pump panel led lights (3) for the driver's side and Dale installed them on 12/19/2025. Dale adjusted the light switch for the driver's door/interior light on 12/31/2025. The Kussmaul Charger was not working. Dale found the fuse blown on the charger and replaced the fuse on 12/19/2025.
- **TA-3617** is running ok.
- **367** is running o.k. The Kussmaul Charger was not working. Dale found a breaker/reset on the charging unit tripped on 12/19/2025, reset it and it is working fine now.
- Generator #4 is at Saxby's for maintenance.
- SCBA #364-4 was at DiVal Safety for repairs (12/5) and has since been returned to service on 12/10/2025.
- One SCBA cylinder was sent to DiVal Safety for a valve problem (11/21).
- Forty-Six (46) spare traffic cones were loaned to the Honeoye Falls FD on 12/12 and returned on 12/15 for their Holiday Parade.
- EMS supplies were ordered on 12/15 and received by Dale on 12/17 to restock the cabinet.
- Information was sent to the Chief about the damaged car fire blanket.

**Purchase Requests:**

25-17: Viking Gear for FF Oppelt = needs to be measured.

25-19: Bosch Sawzall blades = \$19.99

25-22: 1.5" Smoothbore TFT Nozzles (3), 1.5" Mid Force low pressure TFT Nozzle (1) = on order.

25-25: Seat covers for decontamination/cancer prevention = \$15,286.19 – waiting on referendum results, updated today that it can be ordered.

25-26: Radio Strap Kits (5) = \$750.00 - in the works.

25-27: ICS Passport Helmet Shields = \$470.60 – in the works.

23-28: Fire Hose; twenty-six (26) lengths of 3" hose and four (4) 50' lengths of 5" hose, and two (2) 25' lengths of hose = \$16,711.98 – ordered.

**New Purchase orders received:** None.



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**APPENDIX C: District Administrator Report (part 2 of 2)**

**New 367:**

- All County Tractor and Trailer mounted the truck pack on the new pickup truck on 12/16.
- Dale has laid out most of the equipment, taken pictures and gone over it with Chief Tschiderer and Asst. Chief Kester.
- Dale and Asst. Chief Kester have been communicating about contracts to purchase the lights and siren from, and Dale has been in contact with the manufacturer. We will need to get three quotes for installation.
- Commissioner Wilsey is looking into undercoating the truck.
- Dale will be ordering "Turtle Tile" for the compartment floors and miscellaneous items for mounting equipment.
- Dale purchased a back-up alarm and will be installed soon.
- The back-up camera is also being investigated.

**Building & Grounds:**

- Dale took down the wreaths on the clock tower and the holiday lights today.
- Sidewalk salt and building supplies were purchased by Dale on 12/31.
- Dale set up the meeting room for the swearing-in ceremony on 12/29.
- The stairwell light bulbs by the fitness room were replaced by Dale on 12/31.
- Dale purchased batteries for four UPS units from Interstate Battery on 12/23 and installed them on 12/24 (Chief's Office, Computer Room, and Radio Room (2 units). All the UPS units in the building should be in decent shape for a while.
- Snow plowing, salting, and sidewalk cleaning are ongoing.
- There is a contract for window cleaning, a contract to use the firehouse for elections, and a contract for the fire alarm maintenance, on the table ready to be signed.

**Grant** (V-Grant): Commissioner Shuler will have an update. There was a meeting with the Nichols Construction Team yesterday and there is a contract ready to be signed.

**Dry Hydrant Testing:**

The dry hydrant on West Bloomfield Road will need to be retested in the future, still waiting for a date.

Thank you,

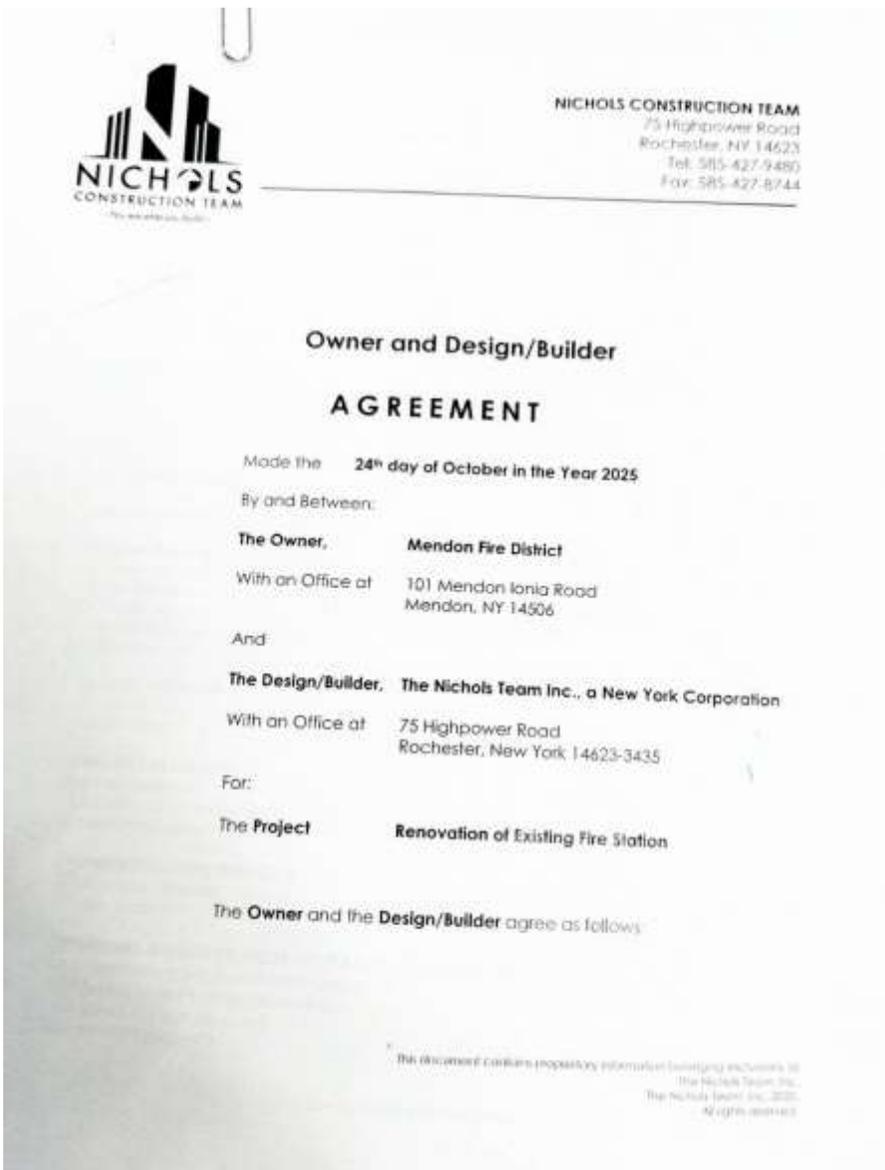
Dale



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**APPENDIX D: Nichols Construction Contract (part 1 of 2)**

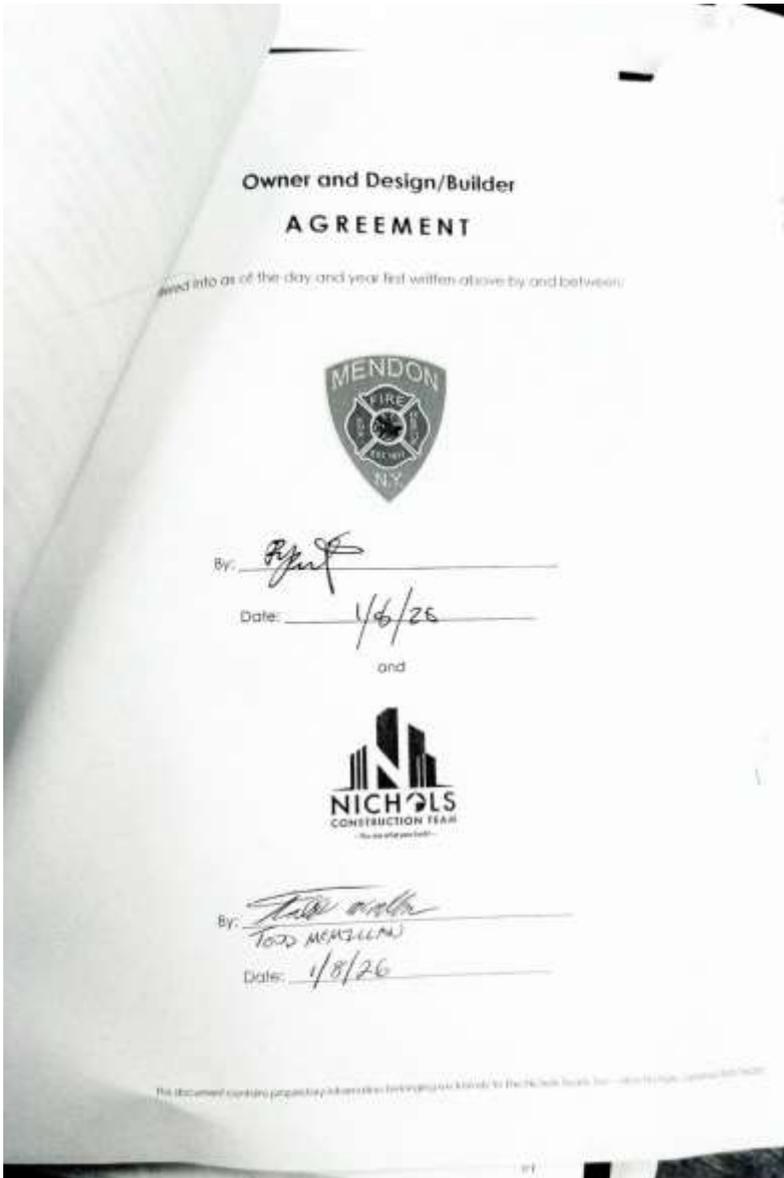




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APPENDIX D: Nichols Construction Contract ( part 2 of 2 )

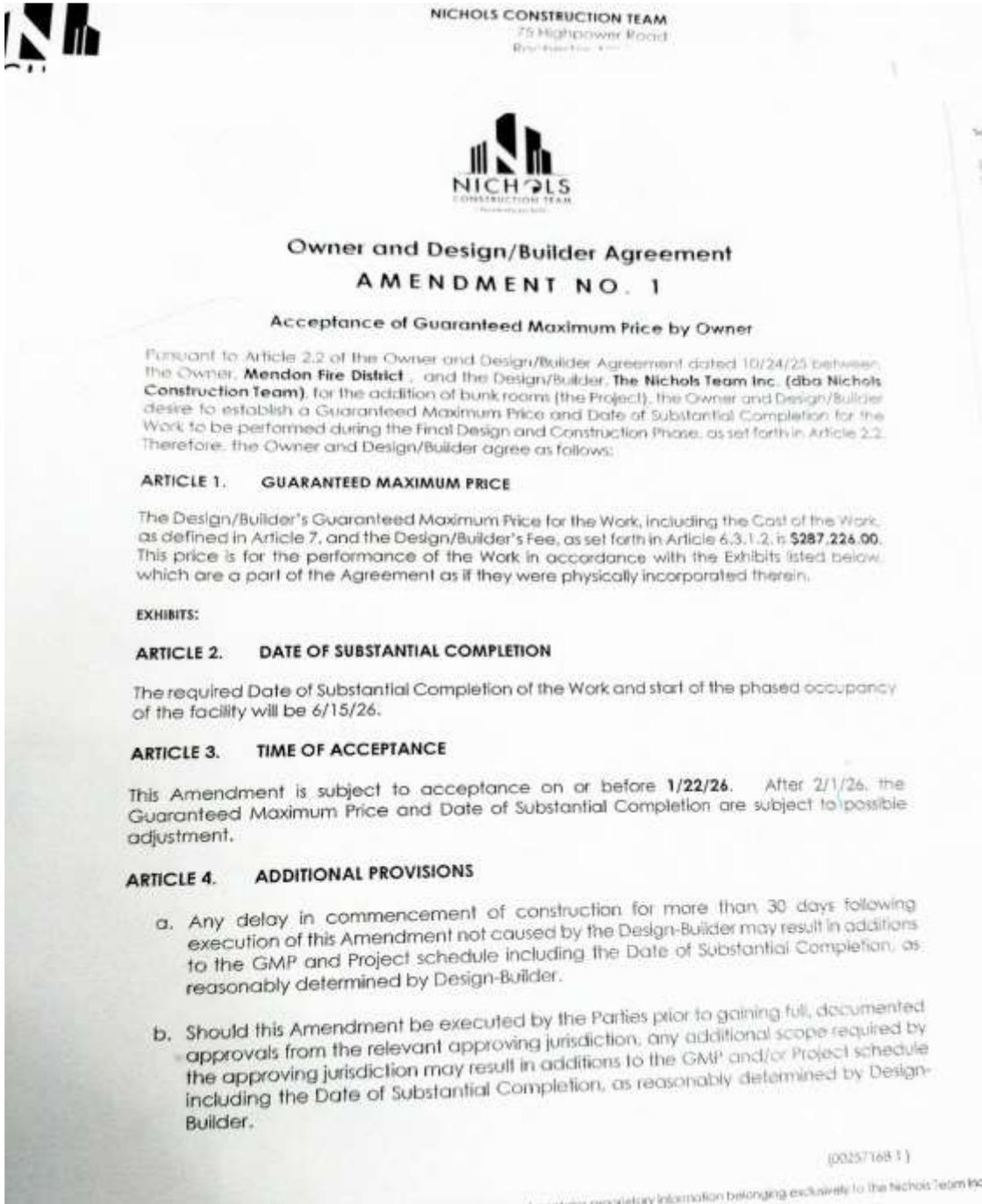




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**APPENDIX E: Nichols Construction Amendment No. 1 ( part 1 of 2 )**





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APPENDIX E: Nichols Construction Amendment No. 1 ( part 2 of 2 )

NICHOLS CONSTRUCTION TEAM  
 75 Highpower Road

By: [Signature] By: [Signature]  
 Title: Chairman Title: Project Manager/Estimator  
 Date: 1/8/2026 Date: 1/8/26

(0025/148-1)