

# **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Greenfield Fire District  
P.O. Box 103  
Greenfield Center, NY 12833  
(518) 893-0723  
Fax: (518) 893-7006

## **April 24, 2013 Commissioners Workshop**

Workshop began at 7:02 pm.

Present were: Commissioners Atwell, Chandler, Spackmann, Waite; D/P Chouinard, Treasurer Bishop. Excused: Commissioner Barss, Secretary Petkus. Please see sign in sheet for others in attendance.

1. Flag salute/moment of silence recognized for departed members/troops overseas.
2. **Approve Minutes:** March 27, 2013 Commissioner Workshop Minutes

### **RESOLUTION #94 TO APPROVE THE MARCH 27, 2013 COMMISSIONER WORKSHOP MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Atwell

RESOLVED to approve the March 27, 2013 Commissioner Workshop Minutes as written.

VOTE: All in favor; motion carried.

### **3. Secretary Update – Joyce Petkus**

Not present; Jill noted the following:

- Reminder that physicals must be completed by May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Fit test schedule out, posted in firehouses and on Firetracker; start June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire 2013 at Turning Stone is June 13-15, 2013; if anyone wants tickets to the vendor expo, please call or email Joyce. Email previously sent out as well.
- Currently updating website; please complete/submit form if not already done.
- Reminder that the sign up lists for the Billy Goldfeder need to be in to Joyce by May 10<sup>th</sup> to be included on the TRF.
- Annual carpet cleaning of firehouses: please email her to let her know which carpets you would like cleaned.

### **4. Purchasing Update – Jill Chouinard**

- 5-gas, gas meters are in and A/C Burwell has taken delivery of Co #2; Co #4 is on the table; please remind her which gas meter is being turned in to go to Co #3, believes it is one from Co #4. Commissioner Atwell noted that a Co #4 bottle came back from hydro, and it was filled so please take that as well this evening.

- Has been working with A/C Burwell regarding the Chief's vehicle. Also received an email regarding Co #3 truck, forwarded it to D/C Ellsworth, but bidding is closed out for the year. Brief discussion.
- Gear still in process.
- Still has some uniforms that have not been picked up; emails have been sent out.
- Collar brass: looks like most of the district needs collar brass, so will begin working on that.
- Toby Middlebrook coming up tomorrow to sign the paperwork for the snowmobile. Brief discussion.
- Fit test machine training will be Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:30 at the the District office. Still waiting for a name from Co #4 of who is to be trained on it; Dean Deuel to be there from Co #4. Brief discussion.
- 292, 281, Chief's vehicle were looked at by Frank and Sons; estimates received.
- Needs to know who needs flags and markers for Memorial Day; please let her know ASAP.
- Cell phone/service originally assigned to A/C Coffey and then reassigned to D/C Davis has been terminated; no one knows where the cell phone is.
- Co #2 packs repaired and returned back to Co #2. It was determined that they were not damaged in a fire, no insurance claim filed. All packs from original pack inspection have been repaired and returned to stations except A/C Bogardus'.
- Thermal imaging camera mount for Co #4 has been shipped.
- Co #1 lawnmower will be back from repairs by Friday.
- Has not heard from anyone at Co #4 regarding getting their lawnmower serviced; Captain Deuel noted he usually takes it himself. Brief discussion; Jill explained the procedure.
- Co #3 parts for bay door should be in next week to be fixed, including remotes.
- Halogen tool bar is here tonight for Co #4 to take back to firehouse as well.

##### **5. Treasurer Update – Jean Bishop:**

- Nothing at this time.

##### **6. Commissioner Updates:**

- **Jack Atwell**
  - Last year \$1000 was appropriated in the budget to pay Cottrell Paper for the use of their hydrant. Have not yet sent it and Co #3 has been going over there to flush their trucks. Brief discussion; D/C Ellsworth noted there are 2 hydrants to use, one at Cottrell Paper and the other at Rock City Falls Geyser Road station. D/C Ellsworth also noted that we need to keep track of the amount of water being used, and also if anyone goes over to RCF station to get fresh water, if it is not an alarm use the 2½" and the 5" hose, otherwise it will trip the alarm. Commissioner Chandler contact Commissioner Costanzo to see how he wants to handle it
  - Probie class at Co #4 was a great drill. Thanks to those involved.
  - When new tires were put on 283 they never put on the valve extensions; D/C Ellsworth noted they never put on the hoses, valve extensions or wheel covers; he ended up putting the wheel covers on himself. Hoses and extensions are still missing on the passenger side rear. Discussion continued.
  - Greenfield School is having their annual Dragon Run in mid June. Resolution to be passed next month.

- Harold Hall has been working with National Grid regarding Co #2 electrical issues, meter has been hooked up to Co #2 for about 10 days now, and there is a bad transformer. National Grid should be replacing transformer within a week. Harold has heater turned off upstairs and fan is turned down to about half volume and has suggested leaving it that way. Discussion continued, including removing heater, or leaving it and putting a switch on it instead.
- **Darren Barss**
  - Not present.
- **Mike Chandler**
  - Co #2 weather stripping on #2 door needs to be fixed. Jill to call Winchip.
  - Regarding meeting with Munter on April 11<sup>th</sup>, they have not gone to check on Co #3 roof; if they have not been there by next week he will call them and more info by the May meeting.
- **Ken Waite**
  - Nothing at this time.
- **Richard Spackmann**
  - Jill and Joyce need to push the New Member Orientation back due to some upcoming training.

#### **7. Reports of the Chief/Chief Officers:**

- **Chief Lant:**
  - Service down on 262 and 292.
  - MacBoston would like to do a coin drop at Maple Avenue on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **RESOLUTION #95 GIVING MACBOSTON PERMISSION TO HOLD A COIN DROP AT MAPLE AVENUE FIREHOUSE ON MAY 4, 2013.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to give MacBoston permission to hold a coin drop at Maple Avenue Firehouse on May 4, 2013.

VOTE: All in favor; motion carried.

- Co #3 has trucks down a KME getting pump service done.
- **Co #1 D/C Davis:**
  - No one present this evening.
- **Co #2 D/C Middlebrook:**
  - Asked if Jill could also have Winchip could look at door #1 as well, one of the windows has a crack in it.
- **Co #3 D/C Ellsworth:**
  - Received lawnmower quotes; added to May Commissioner Meeting agenda.
- **Co #4 D/C King:**
  - Going to be starting on the sign on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **8. District Guideline Review:**

- Harassment & Discrimination Policy: no changes made.
- Sexual harassment Policy: no changes made.
- Workplace Violence Prevention Policy: no changes made.

## **9. District Projects:**

- Current Projects:
  - District Office Building: Commissioner Spackmann noted the bids are due and will be opened at the May Commissioners meeting, with bid scheduled to be awarded at the May workshop. Spoke with Mr. Leary earlier in the week; he seems very confident that we will not have the problem of lack of bidders that we had the last time. The pre-bid meeting also went very well.
- Future Projects: currently on hold.
  - Co #3 pavilion
  - Co #1 radio room floor
  - Co #1 bathrooms

## **10. Special Topics of Discussion:**

- Billy Goldfeder Seminar: Chief Lant requested money for refreshments.
- 281 bay door damage: taken care of; discussion as to what to do with that scratches to 281. 281 to be touched up when it goes to KME for pump service. No insurance claim to be filed.

The meeting then turned to discussion with Town of Greenfield Councilmen Walt Chandler and Tom Kinsella regarding ambulance service in the Town of Greenfield. Commissioner Chandler explained that Councilman Walt Chandler is now the Town Board's liaison to the Fire District. Councilman Kinsella noted that they want to work with the District regarding ambulance service, because as their report shows, they are not happy with Empire and they believe they can have better service for the Town. He and Walt first need to get the Town Board to agree that they want to change from Empire, and then they will need to come to a decision relatively quickly as to what service they will put in place. This will need to be done before they set the budget for 2014, which has to be approved in the beginning of November. He also noted that they still must apply for their Certificate of Need which can take up to a month. Discussion continued as to the different options, including:

- Temporarily using some space in the Greenfield Center firehouse to house an ambulance, it is in the middle of town and there will be better response time;
- Prestwick Chase option of housing an ambulance there;
- Using fly car for ALS or BLS;
- Not limiting options to what is only in the report.

Commissioner Spackmann noted his hesitation in giving a recommendation because that is not what the Board of Fire Commissioners is elected to do; it is the Town Board's responsibility. If they are asking for ideas, he does have some, but it is for the Town Board to select. Mr. Kinsella noted that is what they are essentially looking for, ambulance service is not his field, but he can assess data, and he needs input to make the right decision.

Commissioner Spackmann noted his concern that the committee looked at the possibility of the Fire District having an ambulance, but that option was not listed in the report. Mr. Kinsella noted that it sounds like he is contradicting himself; Commissioner Spackmann clarified that if Mr. Kinsella is asking for all options to be on the table, there is an option, should the Town say to investigate it, for the fire district to have its own ambulance service. Commissioner Spackmann noted that he believes there would be a

very small, if any, tax increase, there would be no logistical issues to work out since it is our building and our personnel, it would be in the Fire District budget, the Town would not have to have a tax district vote, the Fire District has the capital reserve funds to buy the equipment so the Town would not have to worry about where that money would come from, the Fire District already has a lot of EMT's and personnel to staff it. A lot of research will need to be done, and it may or may not be the right fit for the Town of Greenfield. It may or may not be an option for the Town, but in his opinion, it should be an option that should be looked at. Mr. Kinsella asked how long it would take to come up with advantages/disadvantages of this option; Commissioner Spackmann noted it was his understanding that the committee already looked at it. Commissioner Chandler noted that it had been looked at short term and was part of the discussion with Mike McEvoy, whose suggestion was that it is really not feasible for the Fire District to get involved because of all that is involved. Commissioner Atwell noted that he does not know what to suggest, but as a Board Member trying to help out the community, we have a major problem with our ambulance service. The firefighters and the Board are behind them, the District has bought a lot of extra EMS equipment, and a lot of our EMT's are putting in extra time to cover the calls since Empire is not the best at getting there promptly. If there is something they need the District to do and it does not break our budget, he is more than willing to help the community out and do what they can to take care of the public. Commissioner Spackmann confirmed that the offer from the Fire District of temporarily housing an ambulance here has not changed and will not change; there are just logistical issues to work out. Mr. Kinsella noted that they view that as a temporary 1-2 year solution until they find a permanent solution, they would not want to burden the District long term.

Captain Bullard questioned if paid staff would really be required; Councilman Kinsella noted that in meeting with surrounding ambulance companies, they found there was a mix of paid and volunteer. Commissioner Chandler noted that people are looking to have ALS, and if you are, you are going to have to pay paramedics. Commissioner Spackmann questioned what would be wrong with a BLS agency in the Town with ALS intercepts. Councilman Kinsella noted you can have ALS transport, but if it is Empire then it is not going to work, and if for example they go to Wilton for ALS then they might as well go for the whole thing rather than trying to staff a fly car plus Wilton for ALS.

Commissioner Spackmann questioned why is it accepted to assume that firefighters are volunteers and we can fulfill the job, but a volunteer ambulance cannot? It sounds like they are saying a volunteer ambulance service is not going to succeed. Councilman Kinsella noted that they want to provide ALS service to the Town and to get a paramedic you need to pay for it. Commissioner Atwell also noted the costs associated with hiring paramedics, including salaries and benefits.

Brief discussion continued regarding the committee visiting other ambulance facilities and that they understood for the most part that they may be solicited for bids. Discussion also regarding CON's and being able to divide up the Town depending on which ambulance would cover particular sections. Councilman Kinsella explained that he wants the Town to get their own CON so they can control their own destiny.

Councilman Chandler noted they are looking at 2 options to house an ambulance in the future, but that may be 2-3 years away, they are looking for ambulance service now but not be bound to them for years. Commissioner Spackmann and the Board reiterated

they are committed to doing this.

D/C Ellsworth noted that it seem ALS is the way the Town really wants to go. Referenced today's article in the paper regarding building a building at Prestwick Chase, does not know anyone that gives you something for nothing, and asked where the Town Board stood on this. Discussion continued regarding housing an ambulance at Prestwick Chase; Councilman Chandler noted they asked and were told he is willing to deed that over to the Town. He would build the building and donate the land. If there is an expansion PUD, eventually there would be a higher percentage of fire calls at Prestwick Chase and there would be more pressure for him to buy his own ambulance. Councilman Chandler also noted that he personally feels they are all residents of the town no matter where they live in the town. Prestwick Chase is not centrally located in the Town. Brief discussion regarding what potentially could happen if Prestwick Chase does not get a PUD.

Commissioner Spackmann noted that if the Town was looking at housing an outside ambulance that is more centrally located, the logistics are worked out on a temporary 2 year basis and it is housed in Greenfield Center, if it works out what would prohibit us from storing it here permanently? Councilman Kinsella noted it would be a burden on the Fire District, and unless the Fire District chose to donate the space, the Town would be reimbursing the District anyway, using electricity, wear and tear, etc. Commissioner Spackmann again noted that if they worked it out for 2 years, he does not see why they could not continue 3, 4 or even 5 years down the road. And taking it further, he does not see why whoever gets the contract, why couldn't they help to renovate for bunk rooms, work out splitting electricity, etc, for minimal cost, while still having the goal of being centrally located geographically. Commissioner Spackmann also noted that they have talked about purchasing more land out back, and he does not see why they would be opposed to building a structure on that land and leasing it to the Town for \$1 per year. Councilman Kinsella noted that the Town does have a fund that allows them to build structures for the community and this could be an opportunity to use that fund; it is there so as not to put any extra burden on taxpayers to build a structure.

Commissioner Atwell noted that it is hard to make this work with a volume of 300 calls a year. You know you need to do something, but how do you make it work; you can't win no matter you do. There isn't enough money to make it self sufficient, other ambulance companies want a ton of money to come here. Councilman Chandler noted that the Town Board needs to be responsible enough to understand that they can no longer operate an ambulance on \$50,000 a year.

Councilman Kinsella explained that he would like to be able to speak to a few people, and to be able to bounce ideas off them. Commissioner Spackmann recommended Commissioner Chandler and D/C Ellsworth for those roles.

Commissioner Spackmann thanked both Councilmen for their time tonight.

A/C Burwell explained that the truck committee met last week to finalize the Chief's vehicle. Missed the deadline for ordering a 2013, and the 2014 bid is not yet out. Hoselton still has 10 in stock at State contract price, and with emergency accessories, comes to \$41,354.00. Includes Tahoe, lights, communication console, command structure in back, front brush guard, arrow stick in the back, work lights on rear gate

when open. Additionally, the dual head 800 radio system is \$3867.20; graphics package is \$1000.00, no price yet for rims/tires. Total cost comes to between \$46-47,000.00. Would also like to put a stream light in the back and chargers for 2 portables. There is also 100 amp service in the front and 100 amp service in the back, bringing the total to over \$48,000.00. Discussion continued. Jill to ask Hoselton for courtesy call when they get down to 5 left in stock. Discussion to continue at the next meeting. Commissioner Spackmann thanked the truck committee for the work they have done.

Chief Lant asked for \$500-600 for refreshments for the Billy Goldfeder Seminar. Brief discussion; \$500 allotted.

Captain Deuel asked the Board for permission to move forward with out of District resident, Craig Rypkema who lives just outside the District. Permission granted to move forward with the application process.

Councilman Chandler asked about CPR training; D/C King noted it is May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Wilton EMS building. Commissioner Chandler noted he would get the details for him.

Brief discussion whether or not to surplus 284. Commissioner Chandler noted the goal is to have something in the budget for next year. Deadline missed to order a 2013 Chevy on State contract. D/C Ellsworth noted that he has no problem with surplussing 284, but what will be used if it sells quickly; most of the EMT's are coming out of Middle Grove. Alternatives given included using 280, Co #4 fly car, 282. D/C Ellsworth noted that a lot of the EMT's are not EVOG qualified to run 282. To be added to the May Commissioners meeting agenda for further discussion.

## RESOLUTION #96 DECLARING 284 SURPLUS EQUIPMENT.

MOTION: Spackmann  
SECOND: Chandler  
RESOLVED to declare 284 surplus equipment.  
VOTE: All in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Spackmann with a second from Commissioner Atwell to dispense with the reading of the minutes. All in favor.

Motion made by Commissioner Waite with a second from Commissioner Chandler to adjourn the workshop at 8:22 PM. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jill Chouinard*

Jill Chouinard  
Deputy District Secretary