

Board of Fire Commissioners

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

Insurance Meeting – February 6, 2013

Meeting began at 7:20 PM

Present were: Commissioners Barss, Chandler, Waite; Secretary Petkus.
Chairman Spackmann and Commissioner Atwell excused.

Also present: Dave Meager, Insurance Agent. Please see sign in sheet for others present.

Insurance summary booklets were handed out by Dave Meager, ID cards for District apparatus/vehicles and premium invoice to be forwarded at a later date.

- Policy effective March 1st ;
- Insurance is written through Utica Mutual Insurance and is designed just for the fire service, and the District is part of a group that covers over 600 fire districts. The company calculates a dividend at the end of each year based on the group's profitability of that year.
- Noted the dividend this past year is the lowest it has been in 25 years, a little short of 7%. Explained that Utica also has a non-dividend plan, but he has never talked about it, because the dividend has averaged about 20% over the years. After brief discussion, advised that maybe the Board may want to wait until next year to see what happens.
- Increased the building values by 3%, contents by 2% and mobile equipment including vehicles 5%, and miscellaneous mobile equipment by 2%.
- Guaranteed replacement cost on firehouses and contents with \$500 deductible; even if it is more than the limits listed on the policy. Other buildings noted "not included in blanket" means it is actual replacement cost, like the pole barn.
- George Habig, resident, questioned the backup sewers and drains, noting it was not in last year's, and asked if that would cover the new building being built. Mr. Meager noted it would, noting it was in last year's, but there is now a monetary limit.
- General liability has \$1 million in coverage, with an additional \$7 million under the umbrella policy. Should the fire district be subject to a lawsuit, they will defend the officers and firefighters if necessary. Mr. Habig noted his concern regarding the fire department's annual banquet, there's alcohol involved. His question is if a firefighter is intoxicated and leaves that event and takes out a family in a car accident like that, and they come back at the fire department, say for \$20 million dollars, or does it go back to the Town? Mr. Meager questioned where it is held; Mr. Habig noted it is held at the Holiday Inn. Mr. Meager noted that they are the ones that served the alcohol and so they have the liability and the only time the fire department could get drawn into an alcohol case if it is there was a party here and served alcohol and then people left. Mr. Meager noted to Mr. Habig the host liquor coverage under general liability, and gave an example that it is really on the Holiday Inn, but if the lawyer decides to sue the district too, host liquor would defend up to \$8 million. At this point Commissioner Barss explained to Mr. Habig that he has the right to be here, as the public, but he is going to stop him from talking further so they can get through this meeting. Commissioner Barss asked Mr.

Habig if he had any further questions, to please write them down and he will have Joyce get them to Dave for answers.

- Also noted employment practices liability under general liability, which would be things like discrimination in hiring or termination, or sexual harassment. Questioned if the district had a sexual harassment policy; it was noted the district does.
- Mr. Meager then noted that the blanket miscellaneous firefighting equipment, although there is a monetary limit, is actually covered for guaranteed replacement cost.
- For the truck, the limit is the limit, as is comes from the factory. What is added to it is covered under the blanket miscellaneous. Advised the Board to look at the limits on the trucks to make sure they are comfortable with them. Full glass coverage applies.
- Noted the new Argo is now covered.
- Automobile coverage: \$1 million dollars with \$7 million dollar umbrella, for a total of \$8 million in coverage for any one automobile accident. Also have non-owned auto liability, which means not owned by the District. This means for example, if a volunteer responds to an alarm and gets into an accident, their liability comes first, but if they do not have enough liability insurance, there is an extra \$8 million on the District policy. Mr. Meager also noted the State law that says if a firefighter has an accident responding to an alarm, even if it is his/her fault, their insurance carrier cannot raise the rates. If there is no personal collision coverage, the policy pays up to \$1000.
- Crime coverage: everyone has \$50,000 for misappropriation of equipment or money, the Board increased this last year; the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Secretary have \$1.3 million. Questioned if the District had an annual audit, noting it is good checks and balances. Joyce noted there is an annual audit done.
- Workers Compensation: covers Fire Commissioners and clerical employees. Does not cover the firefighters; they are covered under VFBL under the County. In addition, there is also a disability policy that covers salary reimbursement, which applies to employees for off the job injury.
- 24 Hour Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy covers the Commissioners and paid employees, on or off duty. Joyce asked for clarification to this particular policy; it does NOT cover the firefighters, but could, although would have a major impact on the premium. Mr. Meager also noted that Commissioners are not covered under VFBL, so they need something like this to protect them.
- Group Accident Policy: Supplements Workers Comp as it is very restrictive and only covers in line of duty injuries/accidents, and does not cover heart attack, but this additional policy does cover heart attack and will cover any class of member, any authorized activity (except organized league athletics). Mr. Meager then briefly explained the benefits overview of the Policy Schedule Page, including the increased benefit if a seatbelt is worn. Reminder also that it is important to fill out the Beneficiary forms.
- Premium summary total is \$67,943.00, about a 5% increase, most of which is tied up in the trucks.
- Coverage extensions mentioned, with associated deductibles. Joyce questioned the district owned computer that is no longer working; Joyce noted she thought it might have something to do with the windstorm. Tech II working on it currently. Mr. Meager noted it may be covered depending on why it is no longer working.
- Also briefly reviewed the federal death benefit, which includes heart attack if in line of duty, employee benefits liability, spousal exclusion, technology and privacy liability, beneficiary forms.
- Information for loans/grants noted, Utica's website, including the new free training they are now offering, agency contact information, noting that there is a 24/7 phone number to contact someone in case of emergency.
- Recommended again giving the dividend policy another year.

- Left form from Utica with Joyce to be completed and sent back regarding the bond form. Utica also requested a copy of the management letter from the CPA, and if any recommendations were made, did the District respond? Joyce noted she could get him a copy of the letter before he left, noting that last year there were no recommendations.
- Brief discussion regarding the new building; Mr. Meager noted he has been in frequent contact with Shows, had received a copy of the spec for review and got back to him with some very small suggestions, and noted that Shows wrote an excellent spec. Mr. Meager noted he would like to see the certificates of insurance the contractors submit to make sure they meet the specification that was written, and is glad to do that for the District. Reminded everyone that the way the spec is written, the District is going to write the Builders Risk.
- Reminder also that Utica does provide free EVOC.
- Joyce noted that the Cat and Rhino are currently on the policy but are for sale and once sold, she will contact Donna to have them taken off the policy.
- Mr. Meager noted ID cards will be forthcoming, as well as the invoice for the premium.
- Mr. Habig requested to ask one follow up question; Commissioner Barss again noted that he should please write his questions down. Mr. Habig noted the Secretary asked questions; Commissioner Barss noted it is her job. Mr. Habig noted it is his tax dollars. Commissioner Barss requested again that Mr. Habig please write his questions down, they will be reviewed, and Mr. Meager will be contacted for answers.

Mr. Meager thanked the Board for their time. Meeting ended at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary