

# **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Greenfield Fire District  
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The October 2011 Commissioners Meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at Company #2 by Chairman Richard Spackmann at 7:04 PM on October 12, 2011. The flag salute and moment of silence were recognized for departed members and our Troops overseas.

**Present:** Commissioners Atwell, Barss, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary Petkus, Treasurer J. Bishop, D/P B. Bishop, Deputy Treasurer V. Perkins. See sign in sheet for others in attendance.

Chairman Spackmann introduced special guest Theresa Ayala from Monolith Solar Associates in reference to installation of solar panels on each of the four firehouses. Discussion included:

- Program called Public Option Notice (PON) 2112, is being offered at no cost to fire district, or can purchase system.
- Monolith Solar is responsible for maintaining system, they incur all costs.
- System monitored by computer; if a panel is malfunctioning, they will receive an email and send someone out to fix the problem.
- Funding comes through NYSERDA.
- 30% savings on energy bills; should be able to get out of demand charge as well.
- Offered list of facilities where solar panels have been installed including Grace Fellowship Church, Averill Park Fire Department, Best Fitness, West Sand Lake Department of Public Works, Waterford Northside fire station, Rensselaer Public Library and Union College. Also recently signed contracts with Jack Byrne Ford and City of Schenectady.
- NYSERDA monitors every six months to make sure you are getting your 30%.
- Panels do not penetrate roof; if roof needs to be repaired/replaced, they come and move the panels as needed.
- Prediction of how much energy the solar panels are capable of is based on only 4½ hours of sun per day. Also account for dust, snow and debris.
- System is completely separate from generators, if the power goes out, as a safety feature the system has to shut down.
- Power can go back to the grid, and rebate money would be sent back to firehouse.
- Offer ground mount systems as well as roof systems.
- Inverters can be installed either indoors or out.
- Engineers come in and do ground up assessment, including review of roof/snow loads.
- System guaranteed for 25 years by manufacturer.
- Application needs to go through NYSERDA, which can take 4-6 weeks, as soon as they approve application, panels can be delivered. Takes about 3-4 days to install panels and electrician takes about 2 weeks.
- If snow gets on panels, leave it alone, it will melt off.
- Panels are hinged to gain access to roof if necessary; 2 employees give training to firefighters on how to safely deal with panels.
- Ms. Ayala left a copy of the contract for review.

Chairman Spackmann thanked Ms. Ayala for her time.

**RESOLUTION #228 TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2011  
COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Atwell

RESOLVED to approve the September 14, 2011 Commissioner Meeting Minutes as written.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**Chairman Spackmann asked for questions/comments regarding the abstract:**

Commissioner Atwell questioned the following claims:

- Claim #11687: Typo, should be \$55.19, not \$553.19. Corrected.
- Claim #11689-11691: concerned that the training account is being depleted by EMS; confirmed that money will be coming out of EMS account.
- Claim #11701: Airgas, bottles replaced from the Cascade system.
- Claim #11722: Paul Felts bill; coming out of the training account. Commissioner Spackmann noted that the money is going to have to start coming out of the EMS account as the training account is being depleted. Commissioner Atwell noted he did not want all of the training account spent on EMS. Brief discussion, currently only about \$2000 in the training account, EMS currently has about \$4000 left after tonight's bills are taken out. District EMS Coordinator Kemp noted he would like to purchase 2 AED's at a cost of \$1400 for each.

**RESOLUTION #229 TO PAY ABSTRACT #10, CLAIM #11652 THROUGH CLAIM #11732 WITH CORRECTION TO CLAIM #11687 AS NOTED ABOVE, FROM THE GENERAL FUND, TOTALING \$50,666.25.**

A3410.1	\$ 10,097.50
A3410.2	1,930.53
A3410.4	36,905.67
A9030.8	1,248.84
A9050.8	483.71
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Total:	\$50,666.25

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to pay Abstract #10, claim #11652 through claim #11732 with correction to claim #11687 as noted above, from the General Fund, totaling \$50,666.25.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**Correspondence: Secretary Petkus**

- Reminder to Co #1, 2 and 3 that the general election is November 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 am to 9 pm with reminder of tentative ballot machine delivery schedule.

**RESOLUTION #230 APPROVING COMMISSIONER SPACKMANN, D/P B. BISHOP, D/C ELLSWORTH, CAPTAIN D. DEUEL TO ATTEND HONORS HAVEN CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 27-29, 2011.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to approve Commissioner Spackmann, D/P B. Bishop, D/C Ellsworth, Captain D. Deuel to attend Honors Haven Conference, October 27-29, 2011.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #231 APPROVING FIREFIGHTERS CURT BULLARD AND PAUL CONESKI TO ATTEND THE FASNY SEMINAR “THE EFFECTIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT LEADER – PART 2, THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY” AT SHAKER ROAD-LOUDENVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON NOVEMBER 3, 2011.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Barss

RESOLVED to approve firefighters Curt Bullard and Paul Coneski to attend the FASNY Seminar “The Effective Fire Department Leader – Part 2, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” at Shaker Road-Loudenville Fire Department on November 3, 2011.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**Purchasing: D/P B. Bishop**

- Completed RFP for 2011-2012 fuel oil. Confirmed the RFP should include one year, November 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Brief discussion, to be advertised, with proposals due the Tuesday before the October workshop, for the Board to hopefully award at the workshop.
- Still working on gear inventory to include helmets, coats, pants and boots. Gloves and hoods are not being inventoried as they are considered disposable items; if a firefighter needs replacements they are to turn in old hoods or gloves for new ones. Quite a big supply of gloves. Anticipate gear report to be ready at the October workshop.
- Has worked with Firetracker to add some new inventory reports.
- Several items in for repair including: large diameter manifold, but has been having a hard time finding the local Angus dealer. Also sent 5 pagers and 2 radios to Adirondack for various services, speakers seem to be a big issue in part due getting dirt/water in them; may want to order cases to protect them. He can adjust volume on pagers.
- Co #3 thermal imaging camera was broken at Sunday’s drill, sent out for repair yesterday.
- Everything has been ordered for fire prevention. Issue with 1 box of cups, but they are being over nighted to us tomorrow in time for Greenfield School fire prevention.

**Applications for membership:**

**Greenfield Center Company #1:** Donald Doin, Jr.

**Porter Corners Company #2:** None.

**Middle Grove Company #3:** None.

**Maple Avenue Company #4:** Alexandra Chouinard, under 18.

**Requests for Change in Membership:**

**Greenfield Center Company #1:** None.

**Porter Corners Company #2:** None.

**Middle Grove Company #3:** None.

**Maple Avenue Company #4:** Mark Allen, change from ride along to active member.

**RESOLUTION #232 TO APPROVE ABOVE NEW MEMBERS AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Barss

RESOLVED to approve above new members and changes in membership.  
VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

D/P B. Bishop requested that the officers please not hand out the spare pager to new members; he will issue them a pager along with the gear.

**Grants:**

- Apparently did not get approved for the AFG grant.

**Report of the Chief: John Lant:**

- KME was supposed to start pump testing this past Monday, but was postponed to next week.
- Truck repairs:
  - 294 needed new tire.
  - Truck inspections with town almost complete.
- Ground ladder testing complete.
- Captain Bullard working on thermal imaging cameras, should have report next month.
- Captain Barss requested installing a training bailout window at Co #2. Commissioner Spackmann requested they get a list together of what they want to do and present it to the Board for review.
- Co #4 siren is working again.
- Working on getting a Hazmat class together.
- 263 will be at the training center Saturday for FF1.
- Reported on various company/department training for the past month.
- Not a lot of hose lost this year during hose testing.
- Greenfield Elementary School fire prevention this Friday at Co #1. Dorothy Nolan was scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> but has to be changed again; will keep everyone posted on new date.

**Reports from Companies:**

**Company #1 – D/C Kenyon:**

- Received a request for St. Pauly's/Boy Scouts to place a clothing drop box behind the firehouse. Brief discussion; denied by Board.

**Company #2 – A/C Middlebrook:**

- Rhino would not start, needs to be serviced.
- 271 is going to Greenfield School for Fall Festival on Saturday.
- Flag pole and lights moved, stone is down.

**Company #3 – D/C Ellsworth:**

- Was at the training center on Sunday, impressed with the hook on bail out system, would like to see District get a price from Garrison on it.
- Would like to see District maybe next year work with Co #2 in reference to looking at an Argo, rather than the sled, it is more user friendly, more versatile.

**Company #4 – Captain Deuel:**

- On 10/31, would like to hold Halloween party and Haunted Halloween ride on field next to firehouse. Have received permission from the owner, who would just like a certificate of insurance and hold harmless agreement. A/C Bogardus to call the District office with particulars.

**RESOLUTION #233 GIVING CO #4 PERMISSION TO HOLD THEIR HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE FIREHOUSE AND HAUNTED HAYRIDE AT FIELD NEXT DOOR TO FIREHOUSE ON OCTOBER 31, 2011, PROVIDED THE HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE AND CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE ARE PROVIDED.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Barss

RESOLVED to give Co #4 permission to hold their Halloween Party at the firehouse and Haunted Hayride at field next door to firehouse on October 31, 2011, provided the hold harmless clause and Certificate of Insurance are provided.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chief Lant noted the deck gun off Co #2 truck is not working. Brief discussion; KME to repair.

**Report of District EMS Coordinator – Tim Kemp:**

- EMS training on 10/20 at Co #3 and all day CME class at Co #1 on 10/23.

**Planning Board:**

**\*For Town of Greenfield, Mike Chandler:**

- Not present.

**\*For Town of Wilton, Gary Bullard:**

- Not present.

**Reports of the Commissioners:**

**Commissioner Atwell:**

- Reviewed all changes for Co #1 truck, signed the contract the other day, sent on to KME.
- Met with Commissioners Chandler and Barss, and Toby Middlebrook regarding Co #3 roof on how to vent the chimney pipes. Were able to come up with a solution of dormer; Commissioner Chandler to contact Munter and get them and Toby together. Antenna on roof for low band to be moved to dormer. Commissioner Waite noted Commissioner Chandler told him the stuff was ordered and is waiting for a confirmation date. Commissioner Atwell questioned if the insurance stuff was taken care of; Commissioner Spackmann noted that Commissioner Chandler apparently took care of it.
- Co #1 Cascade system: D/C Kenyon has not heard from them, will call again in the morning.
- Confirmed that 261 ladder rack completed.
- By-law changes vote: Secretary Petkus noted the soonest the Board can vote on the changes is at the November Commissioners meeting and is on that agenda.
- LOSAP forms: Met with Joyce again regarding the LOSAP forms and continuing problems, which is hurting the firefighters with regard to earning LOSAP points. She is willing to meet with the data entry people again to review again.
- Questioned the request for the annual audit; Secretary Petkus noted she has left 2 messages for Mr. Person and will be calling again tomorrow.

**Commissioner Barss:**

- Co #2 wants to put in exit for rope rescue, they were told to contact the Chief.

**Commissioner Chandler:**

- Not present.

**Commissioner Spackmann:**

- Nothing at this time.

**Commissioner Waite:**

- Nothing at this time.

**Special Topics of Discussion:**

- Commissioner Spackmann noted that there seems to be a snafu regarding the Halfmoon and Jonesville FF1 classes and books; seems that the Halfmoon class does not have enough books and apparently the firefighters taking the class could buy the books if they wanted. Two firefighters from Co #2 purchased the books without proper permission, and another problem is one book cost \$80 and the other \$30, and they are not the same books. Chief Lant noted that those firefighters should have gone through the proper channels and contacted their officers first. Discussion continued, including notifying the Commissioner in charge of training or the purchasing agent, keeping the books at the District if purchases approved, Secretary Petkus speaking to one of the firefighters after finding a receipt in the LOSAP box. A/C Middlebrook noted he was not told about this until after the books were ordered. Question also regarding purchasing EMT books and procedure for that. A/C Middlebrook to find out why price discrepancy between books; if one is wrong it is to be returned and they are to go through director of purchasing to get correct book. Secretary Petkus to find out which book the County is using.
- Bob Roxbury requested battery tender or charger for the fire police van. Battery keeps dying. Brief discussion regarding reason why battery seems to be frequently draining; determined to be operator error. Master switch to be installed.
- A/C Middlebrook noted that Co #2 siren is not working; sounds like same issue at Co #4. A/C Middlebrook authorized to call County on it.
- D/C Ellsworth noted that he was told the radios are being installed at Co #2 tomorrow, Co #4 on Friday and Co #1 on Monday. Discussion regarding reasons why the radios have taken so long to be installed, including high band and 800 radio issues. Apparently there is only one person installing radios for the whole County. Chief Lant previously contacted Supervisor Johnson regarding this issue.

**RESOLUTION #234 TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.**

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Barss

RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Spackmann with a second from Commissioner Atwell to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus  
District Secretary