

Board of Fire Commissioners
Greenfield Fire District
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The September 27, 2023 Commissioners Meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at the District Office by Chairman Michael Chandler at 7:01 PM.

Flag salute and a moment of silence were recognized for departed members.

Present were: Commissioners Chandler, Ellsworth, Hays, Ramsey, Russo; D/A-Treasurer Petkus, D/P Olson. Commissioner Chandler arrived at 6:30 pm. Also in attendance, Town of Greenfield Assessor Lorraine Fiorino. See sign in sheet for others in attendance.

Town of Greenfield Assessor Fiorino was in attendance to explain how the recently enacted Volunteer Firefighters Exemption works and answer any questions, noting the following:

- Firefighters can take either the income tax credit of \$200 or the apply through the assessor's office for the Volunteer Firefighters Exemption;
- Exempts up to 10% of the assessed value of a firefighter's residence;
- The County has adopted the exemption, and the Town of Greenfield is in the process of adopting the exemption.
- The County adopted the 10% exemption with a 2-year minimum service requirement, and the Town is in the process of probably adopting the same;
- The fire district can also adopt the exemption; requested if the Board chooses to do so, to please adopt the same as well.
- The volunteer firefighter must meet the minimum service requirement established most likely by the fire district, either 2 or 5 years;
- Currently most volunteers are better off taking the income tax credit. In order to take the exemption, the assessed value would need to be at least \$295,000;
- A certified list would need to be sent to the Town annually.

There was brief discussion; Ms. Fiorino noted that if there were any questions, please reach out to her. Joyce to also contact Counsel. The board thanked Ms. Fiorino for her time.

**RESOLUTION # 239 APPROVING THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Russo

RESOLVED to approve the September 13, 2023 Commissioner Meeting minutes as written.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Chandler asked for questions/comments regarding the abstract:

RESOLUTION #240 APPROVING PAYMENT OF ABSTRACT #18 DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, VOUCHER #230387 THROUGH VOUCHER #230407, TOTALING \$55,657.30.

A3410.1	\$ 6,549.25
A3410.2	\$ 34,788.62
A3410.4	\$ 13,793.83
A9000.8	\$ 525.60

Total:	\$ 55,657.30

MOTION: Chander

SECOND: Russo

RESOLVED to approve payment of Abstract #18 dated September 27, 2023 from the General Fund, Voucher #230387 through Voucher #230407, totaling \$55,657.30.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Reports of the Staff:

- **District Administrator:** Joyce Petkus
 - Security system upgrade is winding down; the staff has their login information, next Tuesday she will be at Co #2 handing out access cards. Brief discussion.
 - The 2024 adopted proposed budget was sent to the Towns of Wilton and Greenfield this morning and the Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the newspapers. She also posted the Notice on the district website and sent the hearing information to the fire companies to put the information on their signboards.
 - Has still not heard from Dave Abbott in reference to 282 accident.
 - Left another message for Sue Dyson at UDS; still no return phone call.
 - Received an email from firefighter Vumbaco in reference to applying for a grant through the Leary Foundation. Brief discussion regarding the company grant request of rescue tools vs. the district grant request for gear extractors.
 - Reminder that the Board has a meeting with Tim Hannigan on October 11th.

RESOLUTION #241 GIVING DAIN LACROSS AND JACLENE BECKER PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE NYSAFC REGIONAL HANDS-ON TRAINING BEYOND THE BASICS AT EAST GLENVILLE FIRE DISTRICT, SCHENECTADY COUNTY ON NOVEMBER 5, 2023. PERMISSION TO ALSO TAKE 284.

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Ramsey

RESOLVED to give Dain LaCross and Jaclene Becker permission to attend the NYSAFC Regional Hands-On Training Beyond the Basics at East Glenville Fire District, Schenectady County on November 5, 2023. Permission to also take 284.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #242 GIVING EDWARD PETKUS & JAY ELLSWORTH PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OFFICER TRAINING FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE LEADERS AT THE TURNING STONE RESORT & CASINO, ONEIDA COUNTY, OCTOBER 27-28, 2023. PERMISSION TO ALSO TAKE 280.

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Russo

RESOLVED to give Edward Petkus & Jay Ellsworth permission to attend the Board of Director & Executive Officer Training for Emergency Service Leaders at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino, Oneida County, October 27-28, 2023. Permission to also take 280.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- **Purchasing Agent:** Douglas Olson

- The truck that the board had approved for purchase from DePaula at last night's special meeting was sold this morning. He was able to find the same truck, a 2023 Ford Super Duty F350 in the same color, with a plow at Latham Ford for \$63,295.00; they are willing to hold the truck as the district goes through the referendum process. He also found a new 2022 F350 Super Duty diesel with plow at Mackey Ford for \$68,447.50. Both require a \$500 deposit. Discussion continued.

Lengthy discussion continued, including the sizes of the plows, gas vs. diesel engines, maintenance and repair costs, warranties.

RESOLUTION #243 RESCINDING PURCHASE OF THE DEPAULA TRUCK.

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Ramsey

RESOLVED to rescind purchase of the DePaula truck.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #244 RESCINDING LAST NIGHT'S PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM MOTION.

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Russo

RESOLVED to rescind last night's permissive referendum motion.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Chandler with a second from Commissioner Ramsey to purchase the 2023 Ford Super Duty F350 for \$63,295.00 from Latham Ford, and also see if they can upgrade the plow to the 9'6".

Discussion continued, including establishing a 5-year replacement plan for the maintenance vehicle.

RESOLUTION #245 PURCHASING THE 2022 DIESEL WITH PLOW FROM MACKAY FORD FOR \$68,447.50.

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Ramsey

RESOLVED to purchase the 2022 Diesel with plow from Mackey Ford for \$68,447.50.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #246 GIVING THE TREASURE PERMISSION TO PAY THE \$500 DEPOSIT TO MACKEY FORD; MONEY TO COME OUT OF OPERATIONS.

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Ramsey

RESOLVED to give the Treasure permission to pay the \$500 deposit to Mackey Ford; money to come out of Operations.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #247 ADVERTISING A PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM TO WITHDRAW AND EXPEND UP TO \$72,000.00 FROM THE EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE 2022 DIESEL, AND ANY NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND EXTENDED WARRANTY, FROM MACKEY FORD.

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Russo

RESOLVED to advertise a permissive referendum to withdraw and expend up to \$72,000.00 from the Equipment Reserve Fund for the purchase of the 2022 Diesel, and any necessary equipment and extended warranty, from Mackey Ford.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Received a quote on the replacement of 275 from Vander Molen/911 Rapid Response in the amount of \$146,417.68, less lighting. E-One responded with an email that they have been unable to get a response in reference to chassis pricing. Received similar response from Emergency Vehicle Equipment Auto Solutions. Commissioner Chandler noted he met with that committee and asked them to find a plain truck at this point and add equipment as needed. Discussion continued.
- 282 is still at paint; price has increased to \$26,910.05, not including the damage behind the front bumper. Brief discussion continued.
- Received a quote from Toby Middlebrook in reference to the replacement of the last original furnace at Co #3 in an amount between \$8,500 - \$9,000. Mohawk was out yesterday and have said it will be around \$10,000; quote should arrive by the end of the week. Roland J. Down was a no show yesterday afternoon. Added to October 11th meeting agenda.
- Met with Hoffman Concrete and Flooring Epoxy for Co #4 repair and epoxy. Discussion regarding repairing the bay floor and epoxy, as well as the meeting room carpet. Cost will be approximately \$66,000 for the bay floor, \$8,800 for the meeting room, totaling \$74,800. Also met with Garage Kings, and awaiting quote, and Giamondo's for a site visit and quote. Added to October 11th meeting agenda.
- Spoke to the owner of Titan Roofing regarding Co #1 roof issues. Discussion continued; the owner will send someone up next week and will be ordering parts. Doug to deal directly from the owner going forward.
- Has not worked on 26 quotes.

Commissioner Ellsworth questioned the status of the KME paint warranties on both 282 and 292. Brief discussion.

• **Treasurer:** Joyce Petkus

- Has been unable to resolve the issue of not receiving Co #4 firehouse electricity bills from National Grid, so this past Friday she filed a formal complaint with the Public Service Commission. Discussion continued.

- Reminder that the budget hearing October 17th.

Firefighter/Auxiliary/Explorer Membership: None.

Report of the Chief – Jon Davis:

- Not present this evening.

Reports from Companies:

Company #1:

- No one present this evening.
- Commissioner Chandler noted that he signed the change order for new 261. Commissioner Ellsworth requested a copy of the jaws quote.

Company #2: D/C Barss

- Nothing at this time.

Company #3: D/C Petkus

- Nothing at this time.

Company #4: Captain N. King

- Requested access for April Fresh Cleaning Services. Brief discussion, Board okayed, and they will need a Certificate of Liability Insurance. Contact information to be sent to Joyce.

Report of the Training Committee: D/C Barss

- MBK has started up again after the summer break.
- Committee has been reviewing Policy #27. Lengthy discussion continued, including officer time frames, and the lack of a provision from previous time, experience and effort, establishing interview process, using the waiver if someone does not meet the requirements, NYS Best Practices, lack of manpower and officer qualifications. Committee to write formal review.

Report of the Explorer Program: A/C W. Chandler

- Reminder that there will be a Spaghetti dinner fundraiser on October 6th.

Reports of the Commissioners:

- Ellsworth
 - Noted the board had a lengthy discussion at last night's special meeting regarding 293 oil leak and it not passing next years' annual ladder inspection until repairs are made. Discussion continued.
 - Still has not seen new 261 and new 273 piggybacking contracts; Commissioner Chandler to work on it.
- Hays
 - Working with Tom Vumbaco on the Leary Foundation grants. Brief discussion, including the Gary Sinise Foundation grants; Commissioner Ellsworth feels we are missing the boat on grant writing.
- Ramsey
 - Questioned where the flow meters are currently located. Brief discussion; D/C Barss to return them to the Chiefs office.
- Russo
 - Nothing at this time.
- Chandler
 - Co #4 water project is in DOH review. The Town of Wilton made some suggested changes to the plan, including increasing the line from 6" to 8". Brief discussion continued.

- Co #1 roof should be fixed next week.

Reports of the Town Board/Planning Board Liaisons

- Town of Greenfield:
 - Nothing at this time.
- Town of Wilton:
 - Nothing at this time.

District Policy Review:

- Membership Application
- New Member Live Burn
- New Member Orientation

Lengthy discussion regarding changes to above policies, as well as the status of the orientation policy, and when is it being held.

RESOLUTION #248 MAKING CHANGES TO POLICIES 13, 29 AND 30 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION: Ramsey

SECOND: Russo

RESOLVED to make changes to policies 13, 29 and 30 as written.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Special Topics of Discussion/Final Comments:

- Commissioner Ellsworth noted he recently attended a PESH class and that actual bail out is not required; questioned the district's bail out training and does the policy need to be changed; are firefighters going to be required annually to bail out or just demonstrate proficiency. D/C Barss noted it went through the training committee and the general consensus was that younger members coming through should be going out the second story window in order to understand how to use the equipment; for those doing it for a while, the single floor prop is proficient, the district policy supersedes. Captain King noted initially they need to jump out; after that they need to show proficiency once a year. Brief discussion continued.

RESOLUTION #249 DISPENSING WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.

MOTION: Chandler

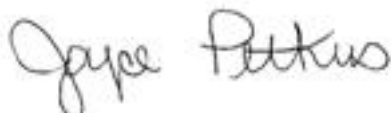
SECOND: Russo

RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chandler with a second from Commissioner Russo to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce A. Petkus
District Administrator/Treasurer