

Board of Fire Commissioners
Greenfield Fire District
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The April 3, 2024 Commissioners Workshop of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at the District Office by Vice Chairman Jay Ellsworth at 7:06 PM. The flag salute and a moment of silence were recognized for departed members.

Present were: Commissioners Chandler, Chouinard, Ellsworth, Etson, Russo; D/A-Treasurer Petkus. Special Guest: Past Commissioner Richard Spackmann. See sign in sheet for others in attendance.

Commissioner Ellsworth introduced Past Commissioner Richard Spackmann, noting that he is here this evening to address with the Board, next years' budget and/or long-term planning. Mr. Spackmann noted the following:

- He continues to read the board minutes;
- He has seen lots of challenges coming to the fire district, and feels the district is at a pivotal moment regarding finances;
- He has met and talked with Commissioner Chouinard regarding a plan or thought process of the board, and discussed challenges that he was not previously aware of;
- He is offering to put together a committee to look at financial challenges facing the fire district, and try to put together a plan to address those challenges, including putting together a budgetary plan for the next five years backed by data and justifications for the decisions the board may make. This would allow the board to implement changes based on sound reasoning and data to justify those decisions/changes that may be made.
- His suggestion for the committee, which would need to be approved by the board, is that he would chair the committee, and the committee would consist of two commissioners, the district chief and two representatives from each fire company. The goal would be for the committee to have their recommendations to the board around August, in time for the board to consider and hopefully incorporate it into the next budget cycle.
- In order for the committee to be productive, they would focus on financial needs in order for the district to maintain its current state.

Discussion continued.

Chief Barss strongly noted he is against Past Commissioner Spackmann chairing the committee. D/C Alvord noted that there are other Chiefs in the district and they all oversee a little slice of the budget, and work with the Commissioners, adding that many of them have been working on getting a long-term plan for each part of the budget to propose to the commissioners. Past Commissioner Spackmann noted that the idea is not to overwrite or dismiss what they have been doing, but more about what the budget should be and what should be allocated to different financial aspects of the budget, which aren't all just firematic.

Commissioner Ellsworth noted that past boards have not wanted to raise taxes, nor does this board, but the reality is that it is going to have to happen, with inflation far surpassing the 2% tax cap, and the cost of doing business; i.e. apparatus prices, cost of repairs. Past

Commissioner Spackmann reiterated that if the time comes to go over the tax cap, data will be needed to support that decision, and that is why he is offering his assistance.

Commissioner Chandler noted he would like to discuss it amongst the board, and appreciates his offer of assistance. The board thanked Past Commissioner Spackman for attending.

Commissioner Chandler continued with discussion related to the Co #2 building expansion project. Lengthy discussion continued, including:

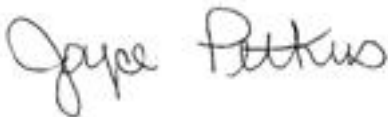
- Project is more expensive than anticipated and the money needed is not there;
- Consider purchasing the corner lot in Porter Corners, if it is for sale;
- Chief Barss noted that geographical location is key and keeping units in service in that area of town for response times;
- Maintaining the current building, fixing the things that need to be fixed in all the stations; and at the same time saving money for a future building;
- Increasing home building/population, manpower, location and apparatus considerations;
- Commissioner Etson questioned what is currently needed and what is broken; the overhead doors need to be replaced, especially door 2. Lt. Ramsey recommended doing what can be done to fix what we have without the expansion, but also have a plan going forward as to future building replacement;
- Co #2 to put together a small committee, make a long-range plan and come up with a list of things that they feel should be upgraded or replaced. The other companies should also put a committee together to get a baseline of all four companies;
- The Board will contact the landowner;
- Spending money on needs not necessarily niceties/wants;
- Salvaging the engineer plans;
- Including grants in the long-term planning process.

Commissioner Ellsworth reminded everyone that the buildings are the responsibility of the Presidents, so each company President should to put together a committee to look their firehouses, do a needs analysis, and then put together a list of what needs to be immediately addressed, and what should be addressed in the near and far future.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chandler with a second from Commissioner Ellsworth to dispense with the reading of the minutes. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chandler with a second from Commissioner Russo to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce A. Petkus
District Administrator/Treasurer