

# **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Greenfield Fire District  
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The April 2012 Commissioners Meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at Company #1 by Chairman Richard Spackmann at 7:05 PM on April 11, 2012. The flag salute and a moment of silence were recognized for departed members and troops overseas.

## **Present were:**

Commissioners: Atwell, Chandler, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary Petkus, Director of Purchasing Chouinard, Treasurer Bishop, Deputy Treasurer Perkins. Excused: Commissioner Barss.

Please see sign in sheet for others in attendance.

## **RESOLUTION #86 TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2012 COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Atwell

RESOLVED to approve the March 14, 2012 Commissioner Meeting Minutes as written.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

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

Commissioner Atwell: claim #120256: D/P Chouinard noted it was for the Drager Pump for Co #1. Also noted 2 jackets went back for repairs, we should still have a credit. Commissioner Spackmann noted we are saving the credit.

Dist. EMS Coord. Kemp questioned claim #120243, Rescue Randy; \$190 should be taken out of operations. Claim #120193 Airgas; leave as is.

## **RESOLUTION #87 TO PAY ABSTRACT #4, CLAIM #120181 THROUGH CLAIM #120278 WITH CHANGES AS NOTED ABOVE, FROM THE GENERAL FUND, TOTALING \$63,815.06.**

A3410.1	\$ 6,415.87
A3410.2	26,938.65
A3410.4	30,460.54
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Total:	\$ 63,815.06

MOTION: Atwell

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED: to pay Abstract #4, Claim #120181 through Claim #120278 with changes as noted above, from the General Fund, totaling \$63,815.06.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Atwell noted that the email recently received from Munter was \$46,906.70; Treasurer Bishop noted the bill she received was \$49,906.70. Brief discussion.

**RESOLUTION #88 TO PAY ABSTRACT #2, CLAIM #BR12004 THROUGH CLAIM #BR12006 FROM THE BUILDING RESERVE FUND PER PREVIOUS REFERENDUMS, TOTALING \$56,706.70.**

A3400.0	\$ 56,706.70
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Total:	\$ 56,706.70

MOTION: Waite  
SECOND: Atwell  
RESOLVED: to pay Abstract #2, Claim #BR12004 through Claim #BR12006 from the Building Reserve Fund per previous referendums, totaling \$56,706.70.  
VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #89 TO PAY ABSTRACT #1, CLAIM #ER12001 THROUGH CLAIM #ER12003 FROM THE EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND PER PREVIOUS REFERENDUMS, TOTALING \$1,031,538.13.**

R3400.0	\$1,031,538.13
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Total:	\$1,031,538.13

MOTION: Atwell  
SECOND: Waite  
RESOLVED: to pay Abstract #1, Claim #ER12001 through Claim #ER12003 from the Equipment Reserve Fund per previous referendums, totaling \$1,031,538.13.  
VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Brief discussion regarding the recent repairs made to 284 at Jack Byrne Ford. Ford would not warranty because truck is 8 years old.

**RESOLUTION #90 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO PAY BILL FROM JACK BYRNE FORD TOTALING \$2,492.29.**

MOTION: Waite  
SECOND: Atwell  
RESOLVED to give Treasurer permission to pay bill from Jack Byrne Ford totaling \$2492.29.  
VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**Correspondence: Secretary Petkus**

- Received and read email from Shows Leary, District Office Building Project Manager.
- District Manual Acknowledgement spreadsheet handed out to Chief Officers tonight. Acknowledgements due April 25<sup>th</sup> and OSHA due May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Read Chief's Order 1-2012 regarding use of cell phones, cameras and/or videos. Board directed By-Law committee to look into policy.

Special Guests: Councilmen Pemrick and Chandler regarding the situation with Empire Ambulance. Lengthy discussion continued, with the following highlights:

- Town Board's decision to go with Empire Ambulance was not made lightly;
- Currently still relying on Mutual Aid;
- Saratoga County Public Safety Committee is concerned regarding radio communications for not-for-profit vs. for-profit ambulance services. Committee created to discuss that perhaps for-profit services should be charged a fee for the County services (radios and dispatching). An annual fee of \$24,000 is what has been discussed, subject to change.
- Did not go with Wilton Ambulance because of issues with certain laws as well as monetary issues.
- Town does not currently have a signed contract with Empire.
- Suggestion made for the Town to work on getting their own Municipal CON in place.
- Suggestion made to look at Jessup's Landing Ambulance; they have been doing a great job for Greenfield through mutual aid.
- Back in March there was really no support from Town Board regarding CON.
- Town Board is currently learning more about CON's, need to spend time on implications and managing them.
- It was noted that various Towns in Saratoga County have CON's and those Town councils have addressed this issue.
- Understanding regarding CON's is that the Town would have to go to public hearings, and that takes time and they needed ambulance service now.
- Huge learning process for the Town, but everyone, including the Supervisor, is working very hard to solve this issue.
- Information is changing every day.
- Concern that the Town is putting all their eggs in one basket by committing to Empire, by their own admission they really don't know what a Municipal CON can do for the Town. Town should educate themselves before they lock in with Empire; look at Empire's performance in other townships.
- Contract set up with Empire to come in September; Empire agreed to maximum 7% increase over the next 5 years. It is a yearly contract with Empire.
- Town is aware they need to begin to think about some sort of revenue stream for this service.
- Commissioner Chandler noted that at each meeting there has been talk about putting a joint committee together; where do we stand with this? Councilman Pemrick noted it had come up once in reference to the Town starting their own ambulance service, but at the time the Town had no interest in going in that direction. It was suggested to create a committee to research out all the Town's options.
- Commissioner Spackmann questioned if there had been any feedback or fallout from the residents, other than firefighters, regarding this subject; Councilman Pemrick noted he is only aware of 2.
- It was noted by the firefighters that there is a difference between "paramedic ambulance" and "advanced life support".
- Commissioner Atwell commented that the Town Board has been put in a bad position, they have been dealt a bad hand, and he understands they need time to work it all out. He has great respect for the Town and he really appreciates what the Town is trying to do.
- Councilman Chandler noted they are trying to educate themselves regarding this subject as fast as possible.
- Commissioner Spackmann noted that it is not fair to pin a lot of the frustration on them, it is a hard decision they have to make, and with the bureaucracy, things do not move quickly. Questioned the plans going forward. Councilman Pemrick noted at this point in time they do

not have any plans, would not have any issues sitting down and having a discussion about what a committee might look like, what its specific function would be, and then flesh it out from there.

- Commissioner Spackmann noted that the Town Board should not feel like they are alone in this, they have many people here who are willing to give input, if the Board wants it. Commissioner Spackmann also noted he is getting the impression that Empire is a band aid to get the Town through the end of the year, the question is what happens January 1<sup>st</sup>, and going forward, and maybe that is where the committee can help.
- Councilman Pemrick noted that if Empire signs on and their service is adequate at that cost, he would guess that the Town might stay with Empire simply because of the cost factor, as long as the District, or someone, is telling them that Empire is adequate/satisfactory.
- In polling the various other towns on what they are paying for ambulance service, the costs varied widely.
- Councilman Chandler noted that he has the impression that Supervisor Rowland is open to making a change if necessary. The Councilman's immediate concern was to support the District and make sure there was an ambulance to back them up, but they are open to looking into other options, and they are trying to educate themselves. Every day things are changing.

Commissioner Spackmann thanked Councilmen Pemrick and Chandler for taking the time out this evening, it can be rough sometimes, it is a passionate subject and they know the Town feels the same way.

#### **Applications for membership:**

**Greenfield Center Company #1:** Christian Alvord.

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

**Middle Grove Company #3:** Jeremy Houghtlen.

**Maple Avenue Company #4:** None.

#### **Requests for change in membership:**

**Greenfield Center Company #1:** Larry Ramsey, transfer from Co #4 to Co #1.

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

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

**Maple Avenue Company #4:** None.

### **RESOLUTION #91 TO ACCEPT ABOVE NEW MEMBERS AND/OR CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to accept above new members and/or changes in memberships.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

#### **Reports from Companies:**

##### **Company #1 – D/C Kenyon:**

- New jaws on 263 are in service.
- Committee created for 263, includes: A/C Bogardus, A/C Petkus, Captain Barss, A/C Coffey, Captain Davis and D/C Kenyon.

- Doing well with training on 262, about 12 people are already qualified.
- Probationary FF Jerrid Marshall: is he cleared to go to the training center if there is a live burn? Lengthy discussion continued including interpretation of NFPA standards; okay to go and view only. Also questioned if he can attend FF1 class as he is only 16. Brief discussion, belief that you need to be 17 to take FF1.

**Company #2 – D/C Middlebrook:**

- Quiet.

**Company #3 – D/C Ellsworth:**

- FF Bill Welmaker needs eyeglasses for his mask. Coordinate with Jill.
- Chief's office and back bay exterior door access are not working correctly. Joyce to handle.
- Requested auxiliary members Joan McGrath and Betsy King have access to the pantry.
- Has 3 proposals for wheels for the portable generator. Jill to put in requisition.

**Company #4 – D/C King:**

- Chief Lant requested to have A/C Burwell certified for truck repair, cost for the test is \$50.
- 292 radio installed today; Toby Jones is also driving it.
- Asked for update on jaws: Captain Bullard noted that 2 pigtail hoses are needed, should be at KME today, then they are going to arrange to have Garrison hook them up. One of the rear reels is in service and there is a temporary pigtail jumper on the front one.

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

- Nothing at this time.

**Planning Board:**

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

- One major subdivision went back to engineer.

**\*For Town of Wilton:**

- Gary Bullard has resigned; Chief Lant will need to appoint someone else.

**Purchasing: D/P J. Chouinard**

- Review of District cell phones moved to the April workshop agenda.
- Received 2 big bills:
  - Rope rescue equipment: Garrison called, equipment being shipped on the 16<sup>th</sup> to Garrison and Garrison would like to have payment of \$30,445.00 upon delivery, when it is delivered to the GFD on/around 4/23. Brief discussion continued; Commissioner Spackmann noted that he spoke with Jay Wilson and told him he will not be getting a check when they are delivered. Prefers to have Jill go through everything to make sure we have received the correct equipment and work with Jean to issue the check after confirmation of receipt of proper equipment. D/P Chouinard noted that once delivery is confirmed she will be contacting someone to have them come and help her make sure all the proper equipment has in fact been received. Commissioner Chandler suggested she contact A/C Burwell and/or Captain Barss.

**RESOLUTION #92 ALLOWING TREASURER TO CUT CHECK TO GARRISON FOR ROPE RESCUE EQUIPMENT AFTER IT HAS BEEN PROPERLY INVENTORIED BY DIRECTOR OF PURCHASING AND ALL EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Chandler

RESOLVED to allow Treasurer to cut check to Garrison for rope rescue equipment after it has been properly inventoried by Director of Purchasing and all equipment has been received.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Old EMS bill: D/P Chouinard received a call from Philips Medical in reference to an unpaid bill for 9 defibrillator batteries from 2009 totaling \$2,214.00. Discussion continued; after researching, proper paperwork is available, goods were received and bill was paid, but check was never cashed by Philips and Treasurer did in fact contact them regarding this, but in August 2010 because it was never resolved Treasurer deposited money back into the Contingency Fund. Philips also noted there is an outstanding bill from 2008, but D/P Chouinard noted there is no paperwork to back up that we ever actually did place order, and Philips has no paperwork to back up invoice either. Philips is writing that invoice off.

### **RESOLUTION #93 AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR OF PURCHASING AND TREASURER TO TAKE CARE OF PAYMENT OF BILL FROM PHILIPS TOTALING \$2,214.00, FOR 2009 PURCHASE OF DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERIES. MONEY TO COME OUT OF CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Chandler

RESOLVED to authorize Director of Purchasing and Treasurer to take care of payment of bill from Philips totaling \$2,214.00, for 2009 purchase of defibrillator batteries. Money to come out of contingency account.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Co #4 flashlights are in and they took delivery.
- Sale of 295 went very well.
- Will be handing out pager inventory spreadsheets at workshop.
- Memorial Day flags/markers given out to all companies.
- Phantom hydrant delivered to Co #4.
- Co #1 and 4 received new equipment.
- Radios installed in 262, 269 and 292.

D/C Kenyon noted he was over at the Town Garage to get the gas key for new 262, and they said the other key for old 262 is still being used. Brief discussion; Treasurer Bishop to look into old bills. Commissioner Spackmann requested D/C Kenyon have them turn it off immediately if they have not already done so and keep the Board informed.

### **Reports of the Commissioners:**

#### **Commissioner Spackmann:**

- Notice of Violation and Order to Comply has been received from PESH. District Secretary to scan and email out to all the officers. There are 3 serious violations that all pertain the safety harnesses/ropes. Have until May 22<sup>nd</sup> to comply. Ropes are not being delivered until April 23<sup>rd</sup>, which gives us less than a month to comply, so the officers need to have a game plan by the workshop on April 25<sup>th</sup> as to how we are going to tackle this. If there are questions we need to go back to PESH with, whether for extensions,

questions, input or clarifications, he needs to have them by the workshop so he can respond to PESH. Brief discussion regarding specific violations; all violations come with daily penalties of \$200 beginning May 22<sup>nd</sup> until rectified. A/C Petkus noted he has the Risk Assessment; it just needs to be re-typed. Commissioner Spackmann noted he will not ask PESH for any extension until he has input from the Officers with reasons for the extension request. Brief discussion continued. Secretary Petkus noted that according to the PESH violation we must object to the abatement date within 15 working days from the posting of the Notice, which she calculates is the 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Spackmann requested a plan from the officers by the 24<sup>th</sup>. Brief discussion continued regarding ropes training.

**Commissioner Barss:**

- Not present.

**Commissioner Atwell:**

- Finally received reports from MES regarding SCBA testing; copies were made by Joyce and given out to each company. Brief discussion, Commissioner Spackmann to send letter to MES.

**RESOLUTION #94 AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN SPACKMANN TO SEND LETTER DISCONTINUING SERVICES WITH MES AND AUTHORIZING COMMISSIONER ATWELL TO SIGN WITH TYLER FOR SCBA PACK INSPECTION/MAINTENANCE.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to authorize Chairman Spackmann to send letter discontinuing services with MES and authorizing Commissioner Atwell to sign with Tyler for SCBA pack inspection/maintenance.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Thanked A/C Petkus for the paperwork he completed and filed with FEMA for Hurricane Irene, paperwork came back tonight for the Chief to sign. Should be receiving a total of somewhere between \$15-18,000; one check for equipment will be sent directly to the District, the check for manpower will be sent to the Town. Brief discussion continued.

**Commissioner Chandler:**

- Questioned if the wheel cover for 291 was ever put back on. Brief discussion; Dave Kenyon to order.
- Commissioner Chandler received a phone call over a week ago that he had apparently been accused by an officer of stealing the roof metal from Co #3 roof through Munter. It is totally false and really angered him that an officer would bring that up without contacting him directly but rather running off at the lip. There are enough external problems; we don't need internal problems, especially from the officers. His phone is on 24/7 if someone needs to talk to him.

**Commissioner Waite:**

- Nothing at this time.

**Special Topics of Discussion:**

- Commissioner Atwell questioned if all the mounting is done on the new trucks; Commissioner Spackmann noted it is not done on 292 yet.
- Captain Deuel noted that a tree came down by the shed, he spoke to Walt Chandler about it and he is going to go over and look at it and some other trees around the shed as well. Board okayed; Commissioner Spackmann noted the Board is grateful that Councilman Chandler has offered to do that for the District.
- Captain Deuel noted that the back door access next to the bay door at Co #4 is not working properly either. Joyce to look into as well.

### RESOLUTION #95 TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:45 PM REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to go into executive session at 8:45 PM regarding pending litigation.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

### RESOLUTION #96 TO RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:40 PM.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Chandler

RESOLVED to reconvene from executive session at 9:40 PM.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

### RESOLUTION #97 TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.

MOTION: Chandler

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Atwell with a second from Commissioner Waite to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce A. Petkus  
District Secretary