

Board of Fire Commissioners

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

August 27, 2007 Workshop

Workshop began at 7:02 pm.

Present were: Commissioners Kugler, Robarge, Spackmann, Waite, Treasurer Bishop and Secretary Petkus.

Others in attendance were: A/C M. Chandler, A/C Ellsworth, Captain E. Petkus, Captain G. Bullard, FF LaGalles.

Commissioner Kugler explained that the reason A/C Chandler was here was because there was an incident at Porters last week and the Commissioner invited him to the meeting to see if he would like any help from the Board to straighten some stuff out over there. Commissioner Kugler noted that he was concerned from an insurance point of view, regarding the kid on the 4 wheeler. He felt that if the kid was on the road with the 4 wheeler going to an alarm and had an accident with it, we would be totally responsible. Commissioner Kugler asked for any suggestions. Commissioner Waite thought the kid had a trail that he comes up and crosses the bridge, and then drives off the road the rest of the way. Secretary Petkus asked for clarification if it was the District's 4 wheeler or his personal one; it was confirmed it was his. Commissioner Kugler said that if he hits a tree and kills himself we are responsible; Commissioner Waite noted that the same thing happens with a car and how can we say anything to him? Commissioner Robarge noted that was not comparing apples to apples. Commissioner Spackmann said he had heard, but was not sure if this was true or not, but that someone on their 4 wheeler hit something and fell off and dislocated his shoulder and somebody at Porters popped it back in. A/C Chandler noted he was not aware of that. It was noted that it supposedly was Jake Middleton and he was driving a motorcycle on the road, not in the parking lot, when that happened, and Jack Sadousky popped his shoulder back in. A/C Chandler also noted there were issues with kids hanging around with motorcycles and what not and he has addressed that with one of the officers that was involved in that also. His main reason for coming to tonight's meeting is that there are more issues than just the kids; there are issues throughout the whole rank and file and he would like some suggestions from the Board on how to set up a judicial board or some kind of board to oversee code of conduct and disciplinary actions instead of it being on the officers, because some of the officers also need that too. Commissioner Robarge said the story got all blown out of proportion anyway. It was noted that Porters does not have a Board of Directors, but Commissioner Waite said that once the new by-laws go into effect they are going to establish one. Commissioner Kugler noted you could possibly correct some of that with a Board of Directors, like down at the Avenue. More discussion was held. A/C Ellsworth noted that maybe some of these issues needed to be addressed in executive session at a Commissioner meeting. Commissioner Kugler thought that maybe we should get a ruling from our attorney on the 4 wheeler issues; Commissioner Spackmann felt that it wasn't necessary to contact the attorney for a common sense answer, the point is people riding 4 wheelers down the middle of the road going to fire call is inherently unsafe and bad practice. Captain Petkus asked if it was licensed and insured and does it drive on the road at any point in time, which A/C Chandler confirmed that it probably does; that from a law enforcement point of view that if it drives on the highway at any time it is

automatically illegal and subject to confiscation. Further discussion followed. Commissioner Waite noted he got into an argument with the kid and told him to get his driver's license. Commissioner Kugler asked A/C Chandler to handle it over the next month, explain this to him and if there is still a problem and the Board needs to go farther with this, he can come back to the Board. A/C Chandler asked if we sent him a letter explaining our position regarding the 4 wheeler that it is not a practice that we approve of; will it take the liability off us? Commissioner Kugler was not sure about that. Secretary Petkus said she would get the contact names from the other 3 companies for A/C Chandler, so that he could speak to each of them and get some advice.

A/C Chandler also explained that allegedly FF Kristine DeTraglia was caught stealing bicycles with three friends at Brookview Mobile Home Park, and when she was approached by one of the people in the park, she turned her blue light on and said she was responding to a call at lot 44. The man took her over to lot 44 and it was a vacant lot and nothing was going on; Kristine DeTraglia left and the sheriff's got involved, and apparently she admitted to it. She has been expelled from Porter Corners and all fire district property was taken back. A/C Chandler noted there have been several people deleted from their rolls and we should be getting that at the next Commissioners meeting. A/C Chandler was then excused from the meeting.

Commissioner Kugler: Handed out information from Fred Whipple Fire Extinguishers Sales and Service a quote on the cost of servicing and updating the fire extinguishers and Ansel system. He also contacted the purchasing agent to get quotes on 10 and 20 lb fire extinguishers. FF LaGalles noted that he remembered the prices being better on state contract. More discussion followed; A/C Ellsworth asked if they were going to get two other prices; Commissioner Kugler noted he would also be calling NY Fire and Signal. Commissioner Kugler asked Secretary Petkus to remember to set up a workshop when the rest of the prices come in.

He also wanted to discuss the letter that was received from the Department of State, written by Tom Wutz, that he is pretty angry about the answer he received regarding payment for the damage to Maple Avenue's truck last year. Spoke to the Chief about it and was hoping he would attend tonight; he wanted the Chief to speak to Ed Trombley about it. Commissioner Kugler had an email dated July 2, 2006, written by Tom Wutz as well, to Saratoga fire coordinator Ed Trombley, and quoted in the letter "if any of your deployed units had damage, please have the fire department complete the attached forms and return it to my attention". Treasurer Bishop noted this was the email she had received by him and did exactly what the letter stated. Commissioner Kugler asked the Board what they think the next step should be; should we attach a copy of his email with another copy of the bills, or do we turn this over to Mr. Young and let him deal with it. Commissioner Spackmann suggested we send Mr. Wutz a letter and include a time frame for a response first. All felt a 15 day response time was reasonable. Commissioner Kugler asked Secretary Petkus to meet with him to draft a letter. Treasurer Bishop to get a copy of all the bills to Commissioner Kugler. She also noted that we could email them to him if the bills could be scanned first, but Secretary Petkus felt that it should go through the mail, certified return receipt. Discussion followed as to the possibility of sending copies to Senator Farley, Senator Bruno and our attorney. Commissioner Spackmann felt we should not do that until we get Mr. Wutz's response, give him the benefit of the doubt, maybe he forgot he sent that email.

Commissioner Waite: Asked about the seal coating again for companies 2 and 4, only got 2 quotes, could not get a third. Adirondack Pavement coating was \$4,760.00 and King Enterprises was \$5,000.00. Commissioner Robarge asked if those quotes included crack sealing; Commissioner Waite noted it included that as well as re-striping. Commissioner

Robarge notes that the town of Greenfield had a crack sealer that we could use if we want it; Commissioner Kugler noted that it was appreciated but that we are running out of time and need to get it done. It was agreed that Commissioner Waite would call Adirondack Pavement tomorrow to get them started.

Commissioner Robarge: Spoke to Harold Hall today as he was at Porters and Middle Grove looking them over with reference to the generators. He is going to call CAT and have them come and figure out what size generator each may need, but noted that Middle Grove would probably be a little more pricey because of where they want to place it. FF Lagalles gave an explanation about it. Commissioner Robarge asked Treasurer Bishop for the last year's electric bills.

Commissioner Kugler reminded Commissioner Robarge about lining up the election inspectors for the ladder truck vote, and that we would need 4 at each firehouse. Secretary Petkus asked that since we were talking about the vote she would like to give an update about the voting machines. She called the County Board of Elections and spoke to Bill, who said we could possibly use the voting machines but not for the ladder truck vote, as the machines need to be impounded for a certain amount of time after the primary, which is September 18th. There were certain stipulations regarding the use of the voting machine, including the following:

- The District would be responsible for transporting them to and from each firehouse;
- The District is responsible for any damage that might occur, including possibly having to replace them;
- We are required to use one of their custodians, who are trained to set up the machine, and they are Phil Putnam and Ed Eichorst, and we would have to negotiate payment for their services directly.

Discussion followed regarding should we have the Commissioner vote at two firehouses like last year, and which firehouses the votes would be held. Lengthy discussion followed, including the pros and cons of rotating the votes between the companies or having it at only Maple Avenue and Greenfield Center. It was decided that the Commissioner election would have two voting places; Maple Avenue and a rotation between Co's #1, #2, and #3. All other votes would always be held at Maple Avenue and Greenfield Center. Secretary Petkus said she would get in touch with both Mr. Putnam and Mr. Eichorst regarding what they would charge and then she would also write a letter requesting the machines for the December Commissioners vote, as it was not too early to ask; the Commissioners agreed that she should get the ball rolling on it. Commissioner Spackmann then asked if we were going to do voting districts this year and Commissioner Robarge said he guessed probably no, but Commissioner King was not here to answer, and that he himself would not have the time to do it. Commissioner Kugler noted as far as he is aware, it has not been put together yet. Secretary Petkus offered to call the Board of Elections and ask how hard it would be to do; if they tell her it's going to be a lot of work, she does not want to take on the responsibility, but if it is something fairly easy she will try to do it herself for this year's Commissioner election.

Commissioner Spackmann: Typed up a document on what we have to do to get the proper technology into the firehouses. Asked if anyone had any questions and if not he would like to get it started. He also explained that each firehouse would get internet service which would include a safe internet environment; the access system would be hooked up online so Joyce won't have to drive all around to take care of it. Commissioner Kugler explained that Maple Avenue has been having a problem with one of the phone lines for the last several years

which is causing the fax not to work properly. The problem is that the lines coming down Route 9 are so old they are not working properly; there are many other businesses on Route 9 that are having the same problems. The fax issue needs to be addressed because of the County Rip and Run program. More detailed discussion followed. Commissioner Spackmann explained how the Rip and Run program would work. It was agreed that we would get started with Maple Avenue and then after any possible problems are worked out, we would move on to the other companies for internet service. A/C Ellsworth questioned the cost of internet service for each station, as it was confusing on the sheet he had. Commissioner Spackmann said they were not accurate numbers and he had already previously added it up to figure it into the budget and it came to about \$2300.00 per year for internet service to all 4 companies. A fax line is totally separate from internet service with regard to the other companies; after discussion Secretary Petkus was instructed to call either Verizon or ATT, whoever was cheaper and get the dedicated fax lines added to Co #2, Co #3 and the District office. She will contact Vernon Brownell first. Ultimately each firehouse will have a hard line, a dedicated fax line and internet service.

Commissioner Spackmann asked Commissioner Waite if the pole barn would be done by fall as he wants to get the access system installed there; he was told to contact A/C Chandler. He also noted that Maple Avenue wanted the access system installed upstairs. A/C Ellsworth noted he didn't need the access installed anywhere. Commissioner Waite would like to have the access system added to the office at Porter Corners. A/C Ellsworth asked for an explanation regarding all these interior doors having the access system; Commissioner Spackmann explained the rationale behind it. A/C Ellsworth noted he would bring it up at the next company meeting and ask the membership what they would want to do, if anything. Secretary Petkus asked if the district offices could be made a priority for getting the access system installed.

He also had a quote for \$4600.00 from Center for Security for a new double sided commercial printer – it is made for high output, as the current printer we have is not working; he plans on having it sent out under warranty and hopefully get it fixed, but it is a low end model. Discussion followed. A/C Ellsworth asked what the cost would be to go to a hand scanner, but Commissioner Spackmann was not sure, although he had gotten a quote but did have it with him.

Had created a newsletter prototype and had thought there would be 2 newsletters printed per year, which would cost about \$7000.00 per year. Apparently Commissioner Kugler had gotten some flak about the communications committee and creating a district newsletter, and what happened to it. Commissioner Robarge originally thought it was too much money and he would rather buy new gear for the firefighters, there was a new website, we have public workshops and Commissioners meetings and anybody is welcome to come to them. Commissioner Waite agreed with Commissioner Robarge. A/C Ellsworth said he didn't want to be negative but he didn't think it was worth anything near \$7,000.00. Lengthy discussion followed.

Commissioner Kugler asked how each Board member stood regarding the ladder truck initiative. Commissioner Waite said he felt it was needed but he doesn't want to borrow money for it or go into a lease agreement. He felt if it was voted down, then start saving money up until we had enough to purchase one. Commissioner Spackmann asked if he felt Maple Avenue's truck should take precedence over Greenfield's truck or vice versa. Commissioner Waite felt it should be whoever was next in line in the rotation, which is the way it was originally set up. Commissioner Kugler noted that the way things are going with the prices of trucks that the rotation is then not going to be every 2 years because there would not

be enough money saved to purchase these trucks with cash. Commissioner Robarge felt we should just see how the vote goes, but if it passes he is okay with going with the lease/purchase. Commissioner Spackmann felt that it would not be a good thing to go out to the public twice for a vote on the ladder truck and then turn around and say it's not needed and we are going to buy Greenfield's first; he felt that it was sending mixed messages. Commissioner Robarge added that maybe the Board several years ago should have created a special reserve account for the ladder truck. Commissioner Spackmann added that he was in favor of going with the lease/purchase if the vote passes or doing as Commissioner Waite suggested and save up the money to purchase it cash. More discussion followed, including Commissioner Kugler's detailed explanation on how he would approach this situation regarding the ladder truck and financing issues. He did clarify that it was HIS opinion and not necessarily the opinion of the Board. Commissioner Robarge also invited Co #4 to the next Co #1 meeting to give their presentation regarding the ladder truck.

They then went back to the discussion of what to do with the newsletter. FF Lagalles suggested looking at the possibility of putting an insert in the Pennysaver and Moneysaver instead, as he felt there was a big savings potential, and then you would also cover the majority of the district with the two publications. Secretary Petkus pulled the last Pennysaver to show everyone. Lengthy discussion followed of the pros and cons of the newsletter and the costs associated with getting news out the general public, as well as various other options possibly available to aid in getting that information out. After several minor modifications to the newsletter it was agreed that the newsletter would go out on a trial basis and the future of the newsletter would be determined by any feedback that is received. Commissioner Spackmann also noted that at the last workshop they had discussed putting something in the Pennysaver announcing the new website; it would cost \$120 for a 5 x 5 ad and he would like to run the ad for two weeks. The Commissioners agreed and the money would come out of the Adirondack grant. Commissioner Robarge also asked Secretary Petkus to change the message on the District's answering machine.

Treasurer Bishop: Had two bills from Total Electric for the emergency lighting work done Co #1 and Co #3, and would like to have them paid ASAP.

RESOLUTION #161 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO PAY THE TWO TOTAL ELECTRIC BILLS FOR THE EMERGENCY LIGHTING WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to give Treasurer permission to pay the two Total Electric bills for the emergency lighting work that has been done.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

She also had a bill from Butler, Rowland and Mays, but it was agreed that this could wait until the Commissioners meeting on the 12th.

Secretary Petkus: Just received the approval for the change in the 2006 generator grant and so we should hopefully be receiving the rest of the grant money in the next 20 days or so. She is still waiting on the paperwork from the 2007 generator grant, but does not expect to receive it for another two weeks or so. Commissioner Robarge asked about the portable generators and Commissioner Kugler said he was waiting on the purchasing agent for some prices.

The Country Self Insurance plan called and they left a message regarding FF Ashley Irish and that they still have not received all the paperwork. FF Irish had injured herself back on 7/24 and Secretary Petkus has been waiting for the paperwork FF Irish was supposed to fill out and get back to her; she had spoken to FF Irish herself about this as well as A/C Davis on several occasions trying to get the completed paperwork. The Commissioners asked Secretary Petkus to send a registered letter to FF Irish and if she does not respond, the case will be closed out. She noted she would take care of it, as well as bring it up again at the next Commissioners meeting.

Received a submission from a resident that she would like to use a firehouse for a baby shower; Secretary Petkus just wanted to clarify that we do not rent them out; the Commissioners confirmed this so Secretary Petkus said she would contact the woman and take care of it. She also received a submission from Tom Murphy about his interest in joining Maple Avenue but he had a job scheduling conflict with training nights. She will forward this to the Maple Avenue officers to handle.

Confirmed who would be going to the Teleconference on September 6th. She will call to make a reservation and Treasurer Bishop said she would cut a check for her to bring that night.

Asked Commissioners Kugler and Spackmann if they had gotten their email confirmation for the Nevele, as they had not forwarded it to her. Commissioner Spackmann said he sent his; Secretary Petkus said she would check again but she does not remember receiving it. Commissioner Kugler said he did not get one but he would check again and get back to her.

Workshop was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary