

Board of Fire Commissioners

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

August 6, 2007 Workshop

Workshop began at 7:05 pm.

Present were: Commissioners Kugler, Robarge, Spackmann, Waite and Secretary Petkus; FF Lagalles, and then later in the evening Treasurer Bishop arrived.

Prior to the meeting with Butler, Rowland and Mays, Architects, Secretary Petkus had a few things to go over:

- Updated the 'Fire District Officers Guide and gave bill to Treasurer Bishop;
- Mailed out the Audit RFP.

Dick Butler and Steve Rowland were present from Butler, Rowland and Mays, Architects, to present their findings with reference to Greenfield Center Co #1 and Porter Corners Co # 2 stations. Mr. Butler noted he was able to find the shop drawings for Co #1 building, although it was not that much help, and he was also returning the blueprints of Porter Corners station. The Commissioners asked Secretary Petkus to take the prints down to Kinko's to get 3 sets of copies made, one of which will go to Porter Corners. She said she coordinate with Jill regarding a PO.

Mr. Butler also handed out a report to each Commissioner for them to review. He noted that there would be some things missing from the report, including not doing a soil bore and a draw schedule showing spending projections, as the District was not at the present time going to be doing any construction. He also advised the Commissioners that if a presentation to the public was necessary, they would be willing to do that. Mr. Rowland noted that it seemed page 6 of the report was missing and he would find out what happened to it and get it to the Commissioners.

Various other points were discussed during the meeting including:

- Contained report from Carl Schoeder;
- Sprinkler system;
- Significant use of wood in Co #2 construction is probably a code violation;
- Damage of the brick at Co #1;
- Ice and snow build up at Co #1 and problem with the eaves;
- Pre-engineered buildings are not meant to be modified;
- New building codes that are currently in effect that may affect any construction done going forward;
- Possible modifications to Co #1;
- HVAC systems of both Co #1 and Co #2;
- Desire for a meeting facility large enough to hold the membership and the logistics associated with that;

- Possible solutions to expansion of Co #1, including a fire wall and temporary housing challenges;
- Structural issues noted in reference to Co #2, including the separation of the floor from the floor joists;
- Consideration of inflation of construction costs each year;
- Upstairs storage issue at Co #2;
- Useful life of and difficulty in putting an addition on Co #2 building because of seismic issues;
- Cracked aprons outside apparatus bays of Co #2 and possible frost heave issues associated with that;
- Lack of thorough handicap access at Co #2;
- Crack at the rear of the Co #2 building and possibility of caulking;
- Crack in the concrete retaining wall at the back of Co #2;
- Life expectancy of Co #2 as it is already 17 years old.

Commissioner Spackmann asked about the possibility of putting a modular home out back of Co #1 and possible modifications of that. The architects noted that that type of building does not lend itself to major modification, similar to pre-engineered steel buildings, as well as they become cost prohibitive and there would be a different occupancy requirement. He also asked if the District could have a copy of the information presented in CD form, Mr. Rowland said he would work on getting that done.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Butler and Mr. Rowland for their time. Meeting with Dick Butler and Steve Rowland concluded at 8:15 pm.

Commissioner Kugler asked if anyone had anything else to discuss:

Commissioner Waite: Contacted Nate King about seal coating but has not heard back from him yet; Adirondack Paving is looking at it as well. Election for 1st A/C and 2nd Lieut will be held on August 7th.

Commissioner Kugler: Spoke to Gary Bullard, who is planning to go to each firehouse and give a presentation on the ladder truck initiative over the next few weeks. Reminded everyone present about the Malta Ridge seminar, as well as a teleconference on Thursday September 6th at ACC in Queensbury.

Commissioner Kugler also was able to get in touch with Tom Wutz, Chief, Fire Services Bureau, NYS Department Office of Fire Prevention and Control to discuss why the District has not been reimbursed for the damage to 292 due to the floods last year. Mr. Wutz told him that the District had applied wrong and we had not gone through the proper channels. Commissioner Kugler explained to him that they had gone through their County Coordinator, Ed Trombley like they were told. Mr. Wutz said we should have filed our first claim back then with the fire department we were servicing, and Commissioner Kugler asked him if Mr. Trombley had been advised of that, to which Mr. Wutz had replied he did not know. Mr. Wutz said he had sent a letter to the District back in April; Secretary Petkus said she has never gotten a letter regarding this. Commissioner Kugler said he requested any paperwork from Mr. Wutz and asked the Secretary to keep an eye out for it and he would also check with the Treasurer, as she has all the paperwork pertaining to this and the directions that were given to her. We may have to get the attorney involved in this, we did everything the way we were directed by Ed Trombley. He has not advised the chief of all this yet.

The workshop that was tentatively scheduled for August 13th was cancelled as there was nothing pressing, and rescheduled for August 27th, after Joyce comes back from vacation.

Commissioner Spackmann noted he would get the internet initiative information together for the Commissioners to review for discussion at the August 27th workshop.

Secretary Petkus said she received, and gave, a check to the Treasurer, which she thinks is the settlement for the damage to Co #4 truck. Forwarded the mailbox bills to Michele Sawyer, but the hose were not submitted because she does not have the invoices yet, although she gave a copy of Jill's email with the estimate of the hose so it would be on record. She reminded everyone the mailboxes may not be reimbursable because of the emergency vehicle law issue, we will just have to wait and see.

Secretary Petkus handed out the email she had gotten from Jill regarding the prices of the uniforms, and she felt that the price of the shoes was way too high and Gall's had the same kind of shoes for ½ the price. She will keep them posted.

Commissioner Kugler said it was his understanding that at Co #3 meeting Commissioner King brought up the subject of the officers living in District and the consensus seems to be that they would like to see at least the Chief and Assistant Chiefs live within District. Commissioner Waite noted he had heard the same.

Commissioner Robarge asked what the Commissioners wanted to do about the water softening system at Co #1. Or should the fuel tank be taken care of first? Discussion followed; it was decided that the fuel tank could wait, it was more important to work on the water softeners.

Treasurer Bishop arrived and handed out the abstract to the Commissioners for them to review before the Commissioners meeting on Wednesday. She noted that Middle Grove's electric bill was higher than normal this year and she is not sure why. Secretary Petkus asked her about the check from the insurance company, the Treasurer noted there was no explanation with it. Commissioner Kugler also asked her about the issue regarding the damage to Co #4 truck last year during the flooding and she noted there was a form she was given to send in along with the paperwork and it was sent directly to Mr. Wutz, as directed on the form. She also noted she had not received anything from him around April or any other time.

Question arose as to the mileage A/C Kemp was submitting; Commissioner Robarge noted that there was a resolution on the books that mileage had to be submitted on a monthly basis or they don't get paid for it. Discussion followed, Secretary Petkus was asked to pull that motion for discussion at the Commissioners meeting on Wednesday evening.

Secretary Petkus was also waiting on the paperwork from Ashley Irish for her injury 2 weeks ago. She has spoken to A/C Davis about it several times as well and still nothing has been done. Which is part of the reason why she feels if a firefighter is injured they should see the District Physician to have it checked out. She spoke to the attorney about firefighters filing a Worker's Compensation claim with the District and requiring them to see the District Physician; Mr. Young thought that was a good idea so she asked the Commissioners to pass a resolution at the next meeting.

Secretary Petkus noted there was previous discussion about firefighters getting jobs after they come off probation, but she felt it should not be her responsibility to keep track and she does not want the firefighters calling her directly either, it should be the responsibility of the Assistant Chief or Chief to notify her. She will let them know at the meeting on Wednesday evening and she will want it in writing for her records, either by mail or email.

Workshop was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary