

# **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Greenfield Fire District  
P.O. Box 103  
Greenfield Center, NY 12833

The December 2007 Year End Close of Books meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at Company #1 by Chairman Kugler at 7:06 PM on December 28, 2007. The flag salute and a moment of silence were recognized for the departed.

## **Present were:**

**Commissioners:** King, Kugler, Robarge, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary Petkus, Treasurer Bishop, Purchasing Agent Howe; Chief McConkey  
**Assistant Chiefs:** Gibbins, Davis, Lant

Please see sign in sheet for others in attendance.

## **Chairman Kugler then asked for any additions/corrections to the December 12, 2007 minutes.**

### **RESOLUTION #233 TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 12, 2007 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to accept the December 12, 2007 meeting minutes as written.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kugler then asked Treasurer Bishop to read the December abstract, which she did.

## **Chairman Kugler asked for questions/comments regarding the abstract.**

Commissioner Spackmann asked if we paid the second half of the pole barn for Porters regarding the security system; P/A Howe noted we have not gotten anything on it yet.

Chairman Kugler asked the Chief about claim #769 regarding the repairs to 273 and is this the same problem as previously? The Chief noted this was a new problem.

### **RESOLUTION #234 TO PAY CLAIM #740 THROUGH CLAIM #792, TOTALING \$39,012.67.**

A3410.1	\$ 2,590.15
A3410.2	2,852.17
A3410.4	33,570.35
Total:	\$ 39,012.67

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to pay claim #740 through claim #792, totaling \$39,012.67.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #235 TO PAY CLAIM #17 THROUGH CLAIM #19 FROM THE BUILDING RESERVE FUND, TOTALING \$1,998.51 PER PREVIOUS PERMISSIVE REFERENDUMS.**

R3400.0      \$1,998.51

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to pay Claim #17 through Claim #19 from the Building Reserve Fund, totaling \$1998.51 per previous permissive referendums.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**Correspondence:**

\*Notice received from the Department of State regarding a conference on Legal Issues for the Volunteer Fire Service, on Thursday February 7 from 6:30-10:30 pm and Saturday February 9 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. To be held at Fuller Road Fire Department. Secretary Petkus asked if she could go. Chairman Kugler noted that some of the officers should go as well as it should be very informative. Suggested Gary go as he has been taking courses on how to be a lawyer and maybe this would be good too. Secretary Petkus noted that class size is limited and applications must be received by January 25<sup>th</sup>, and anyone interested in going needs to let her know if they will be attending no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Kugler read over the course description as well. A/C John Lant noted that the problem is that there is never anything in this part of the state and it is a hassle for guys.

**RESOLUTION #236 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO PAY FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED STATE COURSE AFTER THE SECRETARY GETS A LIST OF THOSE WHO ARE GOING.**

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to give Treasurer permission to pay for the above mentioned state course after the Secretary gets a list of those who are going.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kugler asked the Chief to pass the word on the course.

\*RPT Health and Safety is doing that research mentioned at the last meeting and Donna Crossman has asked to come to talk a little bit about it. She is willing to come to the Organizational meeting, but Secretary Petkus felt that there would be a lot going on that night and asked if it could be done at the workshop in late January. Mr. Bishop was concerned that there would not be enough time to get the surveys filled out and returned to her by the end of February. Discussion continued; the Commissioners agreed to schedule it during the January workshop.

**Purchasing:**

\*P/A Howe had nothing as this time.

## **Reports from Companies:**

### **Company #1 – A/C Gibbins:**

\*Nothing.

### **Company #2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> A/C Jon Davis:**

\*273 is down for a couple of weeks.

\*Don't forget our bar light tonight.

### **Company #3 – A/C Jay Ellsworth, not present. Chairman Kugler asked Ron Bishop is there was anything.**

\*Nothing.

### **Company #4 – A/C John Lant:**

\*Asked about the rip and run. Commissioner Spackmann got ATT down there on Thursday and they may be coming back hopefully tomorrow.

### **Report of District EMS Coordinator – Gary Gibbins:**

\*Asked if they could put the left over money into the EMS Reserve account, per his written request submitted previously.

### **Planning Board:**

\*For Town of Greenfield, Mike Chandler: not present.

\*For Town of Wilton, Gary Bullard: not present.

The Chief did note that Middle Grove is probably going to have a meeting after the first of the year with residents of Lake Desolation. A/C Davis felt the fire department should get involved in this as they got 284 stuck out there and that's what the truck is for. His feeling is, as he went up there to help them get out, who cares if the house burns, it is the people and the kids who are trapped in that house and we are going to look like \*\*\*holes and we have to take the bull by the horns and go after it because we are going to look like the jerks if something happens. Commissioner Spackmann noted that profanity was not necessary. Discussion continued; Ron Bishop thought that Ed and Jay are setting up a meeting with the homeowners; Chairman Kugler asked Brian Bishop, as the new Commissioner in that area, to keep up with that. Mr. Bishop noted that he was not on the clock as yet, but it would be no problem.

### **Report of the Chief – Chief McConkey**

\*Meeting with Garrison is not happening next week.

## **Reports of the Commissioners:**

### **Commissioner Robarge:**

\*Nothing.

### **Commissioner Waite:**

\*If there is any left over money he has one thing. Chairman Kugler said they would be getting into it right now.

A/C Gibbins said he forgot one thing, now that the rip and run is up, is the District going to start supplying the paper and ink because they are going through it pretty quickly. He is getting four pages each call and also paperwork from daytime mutual aids from other companies in the

county – up to 16 pages each call. Discussion continued. Chairman Kugler said to purchase paper and ink for each company, money to come out of the operations account for now.

**Commissioner Spackmann:**

\*Nothing.

**Commissioner Kugler:**

\*Proceeded to go through the year end money, payments of bills, etc. (Please see attached sheet), with some minor changes being made. Commissioner Waite asked if \$400.00 could be used to purchase 12 volt chargers for fire police as they are having problems with the radios being dead trying to transfer them back and forth between vehicles. This was added to the year end money. 2<sup>nd</sup> A/C Davis asked if he doesn't spend all that \$1500.00, can he get two portable chargers for Mike and himself, he previously spoke to Commissioner Waite about it. Chairman Kugler noted that Commissioner Waite should have brought it up. Commissioner Waite said he wanted to see how this works out before he goes to the Assistant Chiefs, as they have something to back them up and the fire police have nothing. Chairman Kugler added that if they needed them after the first of the year it could come out of the radio account.

Treasurer Bishop asked which account the December interest should go into when we receive it. Chairmen Kugler noted it should go into the Equipment Reserve Fund as always.

A/C Lant asked about the mileage vouchers A/C King has sent. Treasurer Bishop said she just received them today and they were from April through November, totaling \$579.56. She also noted that there was a motion that they had to be in within two months in order to be reimbursed for mileage. Chairman Kugler noted there were two resolutions on the books pertaining to this and what did the Chief want to do about it? He also noted there was discussion about this as well back in August about getting their mileage submitted on time or they wouldn't get paid for it. Treasurer Bishop also noted that one voucher was dated May 3<sup>rd</sup> and all the rest were dated December 27<sup>th</sup>. The Chief noted that A/C King was told by a Commissioner to submit them. Commissioner Spackmann explained that he had a discussion with John King about claiming mileage, but he did not know at the time that the claims went back eight months. He doesn't want to see us taking money out of anyone's pockets, but there are rules on the books regarding this and just because a Commissioner told him to submit the vouchers, it is not the whole situation and not black and white like the Chief is making it out to be. A/C Lant noted the problem is we forget and then just doesn't submit it. Lengthy discussion continued about giving a set allowance to each officer, the use of credit cards and sound fiscal discipline, and making people accountable for money being spent. Ron Bishop added that if you make the exemption for one you have to make it for all the officers and give them a chance to submit their mileage for the year. Apparently this information is not being filtered down to all the officers. Ron Bishop noted that minutes get sent to all the officers and it is their fault if they choose not to read them. Secretary Petkus confirmed that the Chief, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chiefs get copies of the minutes and the workshop minutes go directly on to the website. More discussion continued; Chairman Kugler asked the Commissioners how they felt. Commissioner Waite felt they should enforce what's on the books right now, Commissioner King felt we should enforce what we got and pay the past one month. Chairman Kugler asked Secretary Petkus about that particular resolution; she noted she thought it was resolution #30 for 2007 and that vouchers for the previous month have to be in the Thursday before the Commissioners meeting to give the Treasurer time to pay the claims. Chairman Kugler noted it was resolution #34 from 2006 as well, and was revisited this past August because Tim Kemp did not submit his mileage in on time. A/C Lant noted he has had abstracts sent to him that were postmarked the 5<sup>th</sup> and one time the date was the 7<sup>th</sup>, and these guys do a lot of things and everyone gets busy. After further discussion, it was decided

they would pay A/C King the two highest months out of those he submitted. Commissioner Spackmann added that it is not hard to fill out a log each month, and yes everyone is busy but it still needs to be done. It was suggested that maybe credit cards should be used, and it would be easier on the Treasurer, but Treasurer Bishop explained that it would not be easier because she would have to compare bills to make sure someone wasn't abusing that credit card. A/C Gibbins added that the credit card was taken away previously because someone did abuse it in the past.

## **RESOLUTION #237 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO PAY THE TWO HIGHEST MONTHS FROM THE MILEAGE BILLS SUBMITTED BY A/C JOHN KING.**

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to give Treasurer permission to pay the two highest months from the mileage bills submitted by A/C John King.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kugler also noted that beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, they would have two months to submit mileage vouchers. Treasurer Bishop also clarified that any mileage submitted through the end of this month would be paid at 48.5¢ per mile and beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> it would go up to 50.5¢ per mile. Secretary Petkus also asked for clarification that this would only affect John King and if anyone else submitted past mileage, what would happen? The Commissioners noted it would be handled as each situation arose. Discussion continued regarding receiving a blue card from the Town versus claiming mileage as per federal guidelines.

Chairman Kugler then clarified that if there are any differentials in the bills and there is money left over, it goes into the Equipment Reserve Fund, along with the interest.

## **RESOLUTION #238 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO CARRY OVER 2007 YEAR END MONEY OF \$149,296.85, INCLUDING MONEY TO PAY FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008 BILLS; AND THAT ANY MONEY LEFT OVER FROM ANY DIFFERENTIALS IN THE BILLS, ALONG WITH ANY INTEREST, GOES INTO THE EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND.**

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to giving Treasurer permission to carry over 2007 year end money of \$149,296.85, including money to pay for January and February 2008 bills; and that any money left over from any differentials in the bills, along with any interest, goes into the Equipment Reserve Fund.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kugler then asked if there was anything else from anybody.

Commissioner King wanted to talk about the access system in the garage at the back of Middle Grove firehouse; he felt that it might be advantageous to see who is going in and out of the garage. Commissioner Spackmann noted it would be part of next year's budget.

**RESOLUTION #239 GIVING MIDDLE GROVE PERMISSION TO HOLD A BLOOD DRIVE ON JANUARY 12, 2008 FROM 7:30 AM TO 12:30 PM.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to give Middle Grove permission to hold a blood drive on January 12, 2008 from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #240 TO ACCEPT YEAR END MONEY OUTLINE AS AMENDED WITH ANY EXCESS MONIES TO GO INTO EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND.**

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to accept year end money outline as amended with any excess monies to go into Equipment Reserve Fund.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #241 TO RATIFY THE DISTRICT BY-LAWS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008.**

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to ratify the District By-laws, effective January 1, 2008.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner King asked if there was still going to be a committee to review the by-laws and amend them. Chairman Kugler noted it was still in there. Commissioner Spackmann added that in January each company will have to appoint representatives for the by-law committee.

A/C John Lant noted that Randy Davis went life and felt the Board should give him a plaque for his service. The Chief explained that he spoke to Randy and he would come back and drive during the day because we are short drivers, and he doesn't have a problem with that. Commissioner Waite said he didn't have a problem with that either. Commissioner King asked if that is going to fit our definitions; A/C Gibbins noted it does not meet the by-laws of the Greenfield Fire District and he doesn't show up at drills, he doesn't keep up with rules and regulations. Lengthy discussion continued; Commissioner King noted that this could be the first thing the new by-law committee looks into. Commissioner Spackmann explained that Randy is a huge asset to the District, but we can't let personal feelings affect the right judgment for this district and the rest of the membership. A/C Gibbins noted that the only reason he got out of it was because he was not coming up on Tuesday nights and doing training and keeping updated on anything as far as Scott air packs, gear and other things. A/C Lant noted that you don't have to be a class A firefighter to be a truck driver. Chairman Kugler noted he could be fire police and still drive a truck; he then asked the Chief what he wanted to do. The Chief said that was why he brought it to the Board. Commissioner Waite said we ought to let him drive, Commissioner King said he would like to let him drive, but he kind of agrees with John and Gary, and maybe we need to rethink our by-laws, and that should be the first thing tackled by the by-law committee. Both Commissioners Robarge and Kugler agreed. More discussion continued, including possible insurance issues. Chief McConkey said maybe we shouldn't hand in his change of status until this is figured out. Commissioner King asked A/C Gibbins if this was reasonable; A/C Gibbins said he doesn't even show up for Co #1 to drive during the

daytime and they are just as short handed as Porter Corners. It was suggested that maybe Randy should just join Porter Corners and avoid the hassle. Chairman Kugler noted they should work it out, Randy is on the insurance and active as of right now. A/C Gibbins told Commissioner Robarge to take his letter back too; Commissioner Robarge asked why and A/C Gibbins said they needed him. Firefighter Mike Lagalles suggested that maybe we need another classification of firefighter that is restricted to driving and some other responsibilities. Chairman Kugler felt that maybe he was heading in the right direction but that would be for the by-law committee. A/C Gibbins noted that the first time he steps over bounds and starts doing something other than driving the truck then he is over stepping what he is allowed to do and is not covered by insurance. Commissioner Spackmann asked how that is any different from any other member who is currently in this District that performs an action outside of their qualifications. 2<sup>nd</sup> A/C Davis pointed out that Corinth has engineers; Chairman Kugler asked him to get a copy and give it to the by-law committee.

## RESOLUTION #242 TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Waite with a second from Commissioner Kugler to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus  
District Secretary