

# **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Greenfield Fire District  
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A special meeting was held at the District office beginning at 9:05 AM on February 13, 2012 in reference to complaints made against the Fire District to PESH.

**Present:** Commissioners Atwell, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary Petkus, firefighter Jack King, PESH Safety & Health Inspector Harvey Gibson.

Mr. Gibson distributed copies of the complaint to those present, and then proceeded to go through each alleged violation as follows:

1. New and annual OSHA refresher training is not being given: Commissioner Spackmann gave a brief overview of OSHA training being done, FF Jack King presented his binder to Mr. Gibson for his review, and Secretary Petkus logged into Firetracker to allow Mr. Gibson to view the OSHA training that has been given in the past, particularly in 2011.
2. Exterior lighting at Greenfield Center is obsolete and the rear of the building has no working lights. It was noted by Commissioner Spackmann that we currently have our electrician working to correct the non-working lights. Mr. Gibson noted that the required lighting is only 2 lumens.
3. Outdoor exit routes covered by snow: Commissioner Atwell noted that the Town plows, salts and sands the parking lot and the firefighters snow blow and shovel as necessary. As there was no snow present, there were no violations noted.
4. Eyewash stations not tested accordingly and no maintenance documents: see below notation. Mr. Gibson noted they should be checked once a week.
5. No standard for fire apparatus maintenance, including outdated or unsafe tires. Mr. Gibson noted this is really a DOT issue; Commissioner Spackmann noted that the apparatus is annually inspected and repairs are completed as necessary.
6. Lack of emergency escape and self rescue rope and system components: Mr. Gibson questioned if a risk assessment has been done, it was noted the officers have it almost completed, and that currently there are standing Chief Orders posted in each firehouse regarding laddering of buildings. Mr. Gibson noted that is acceptable to PESH, but the problem is with mutual aid. Because the District responds to Saratoga Springs, although infrequently, there must be a system in place. Mr. Gibson also noted the following regarding the system:
  - The District can purchase components separately such as rope, carabiners and halogen tool, or a complete system. Descender is optional.
  - The system is not PESH compliant if used with air packs.
  - System ropes can be used only once, training ropes can be repeatedly used. He also noted that a system rope, once used, can be used for training.
  - System is required only for interior structural firefighters.

Commissioner Spackmann also explained that currently 3 of the firehouses have bailout training facilities, and 3-4 officers have just this past weekend completed the Train the Trainer course to begin training with District firefighters.

7. PESH Job Safety and Health poster not posted: see below notation.

Commissioners Atwell, Spackmann, Waite, FF King and Mr. Gibson then toured the firehouse, inspecting the eye wash station, bulletin boards with signage, and apparatus inspection stickers.

Mr. Gibson noted the District will be issued a citation for the rescue ropes, and the District will be given 60 days to finish the assessment and purchase equipment.

Mr. Gibson questioned the District's policy on confined spaces; it was noted the District calls Saratoga Springs in those situations.

Mr. Gibson noted he would be back in 60 days. The Board thanked him for his time. Meeting ended at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus  
District Secretary