

# **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Greenfield Fire District  
P.O. Box 103  
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(518) 893-0723

The June 2008 Meeting of the Greenfield Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at Co #3 by Chairman Kugler at 7:09 pm on June 11, 2008. The flag salute and a moment of silence were recognized for the departed.

## **Present were:**

Commissioners: B. Bishop, Kugler, Robarge, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary Petkus, Treasurer J. Bishop, Purchasing Agent Howe, Chief McConkey  
A/C's: Gibbins, Chandler, Ellsworth; 2<sup>nd</sup> A/C's: Davis, Kemp.

Please see sign in sheet for others in attendance.

## **Chairman Kugler asked for any additions/deletions/corrections to the May 14, 2008 Commissioners meeting minutes.**

### **RESOLUTION #187 TO ACCEPT THE May 14, 2008 COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

MOTION: B. Bishop

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to accept the May 14, 2008 Commissioner meeting minutes as written.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

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

A/C Chandler noted that claim #305 should be noted for Co #3, not Co #2.

### **RESOLUTION #188 TO PAY CLAIM #283 THROUGH CLAIM #336, TOTALING \$33,013.24.**

A3410.1	\$ 4,037.42
A3410.2	9,508.56
A3410.4	19,148.51
A9030.8	318.75
Total:	\$ 33,013.24

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to pay claim #283 through claim #336, totaling \$33,013.24.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

## **Correspondence:**

\*Letter received from the Town of Greenfield regarding the upcoming Primary and Regular elections. Copies will be given to Co's #1, 2 and 3. Secretary Petkus also noted there have been previous problems at the firehouses during elections, and she has spoken to Mary Ann Johnson, they will be sitting down to talk about it; asking each company to make a list of the things they were not happy with and possible solutions to the problems. Please get that list to Joyce in the next month so she can set up a meeting with the Town Clerk to resolve these issues before the coming elections.

\*Handed out to each company physicals packets with explanation. When Dr. Peacock is ready to start setting up appointments she will let Joyce know, who will then post the information on the district bulletin boards in each firehouse. Posted preliminary information a few weeks ago.

\*Asked if 282 was ever inspected; A/C Ellsworth noted it has not. Joyce has been trying to coordinate this for a while, not sure what the Commissioners want to do. After discussion, A/C Ellsworth said he would try to contact Erin and make arrangements; Joyce just asked to keep her posted on that.

\*One of the alarm forms from Co #4 had 14 signatures, but Captain Bogardus had marked it as only 8 signatures; she has already contacted him and he checked the copy and there were 14 signatures as well; he did not know why he did that. Asked the Commissioners if it would be okay for her to give credit this time around; the Commissioners gave their okay.

## **Purchasing:**

\*Has quotes on SCBA models.

\*Has programmed pagers for Co #2 and #3 to take this evening; also has 6 plain pagers with no tones in them.

\*She will be on vacation from 7/2 through 7/14, and will be reachable by email, so if you need anything, contact Joyce.

\*Still not received from Co#4 Snap On tool bill/invoice that was received by A/C Lant on May 19<sup>th</sup>. She was told the paperwork was forwarded to the office but there is none. Captain Bullard noted it is for impact socket wrenches for the rescue truck, to come out of allotment.

\*Chief McConkey asked if the batteries were ever taken care of; P/A Howe noted that batteries went to A/C Ellsworth but she has not heard from anybody else.

\*Reminder that there are only four months to go on allotment money – October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

\*Would like permission to buy a couple of 3 x 5 flags; the last one was given to Co #2.

## **RESOLUTION #189 GIVING PURCHASING AGENT PERMISSION TO PURCHASE 3 X 5 FLAGS FROM BALCH BROTHERS.**

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: B. Bishop

RESOLVED to give Purchasing Agent permission to purchase 3 x 5 flags from Balch Brothers.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

## **Applications for membership:**

**Greenfield Center Company #1:** None.

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

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

**Maple Avenue Company #4:** William Traver; lives out of District.

Co #4 President Dean Deuel, Jr. noted he lives way out of District; he is looking to be fire police only. He feels he lives too far out of District and would not recommend him at this time.

## **RESOLUTION #190 NOT TO ACCEPT NEW APPLICANT, WILLIAM TRAVER.**

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: B. Bishop

RESOLVED to not accept new applicant William Traver.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

### **Changes in membership:**

**Greenfield Center Company #1:** None.

**Porter Corners Company #2:** Ashley Irish, termination for failure to respond to letter of intent.

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

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

## **RESOLUTION #191 TO ACCEPT TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF ASHLEY IRISH.**

MOTION: B. Bishop

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to accept termination of membership of Ashley Irish.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

### **Grants – Andrea Mann**

\*Gave out copies of historical information to the Commissioners that she thought would be interesting reading; has more information stored in the file cabinets for Commissioner B. Bishop as he is the District historian.

\*Asked A/C Chandler if he has the equipment list needed for the Oliver B. Merlyn grant; A/C Chandler noted that he was waiting for Clark Hayward.

\*SAFER grant: do you still want the recruitment trailer; would have a better chance at the grant if it was a county wide thing. Commissioner Spackmann to speak to the County chairman of recruitment and retention; A/C Ellsworth to see Paul Parker. Grant application due June 28<sup>th</sup>.

\*CEDAP grant: she and Duane Hammond went after this one, not sure if they will get it.

\*R-U-OK program to go front of town board soon; received a lot of assistance from Duane Bogardus and John Lant.

\*Records clean up: progress on that.

### **Reports from Companies:**

#### **Company #1 – A/C Gibbins:**

\*Good and quiet.

#### **Company #2 – A/C Chandler:**

\*Power outage at Co #2; concerned about the door being unlocked and the station unsecured while station is unmanned. Secretary Petkus noted it is the fail safe door and when the power comes back on it relocks itself; she had Commissioner Robarge check on it to make sure. 2<sup>nd</sup>

A/C Davis asked if this would be an issue if the generator kicked on; it would not. Commissioner Spackmann explained that when they installed this system, they envisioned that the station would be manned if there was an extended power outage. A/C Chandler asked that maybe the purchase of a generator or Co #2 could be this year instead.

\*The current generator they are using, for some reason the battery is not charging. A/C Gibbins to take a look at it.

\*Asked if we have heard anything on the GPS unit that was sent back; nothing heard yet.

\*Asked about the toilet situation for on-scene. A/C Gibbins is talking to Stone Industries; tabled to the June workshop.

\*Also asked about the chargers: P/A Howe noted she had tried to get in touch with Wayne, but he is in Lake George.

\*Did anybody on the Board get a letter from the county about the SCBA recall? Apparently there is a problem with the regulators; Commissioner Kugler to look into it. More discussion continued; the Commissioners asked the officers to get back to the Board regarding SCBA units by the June workshop.

### **Company #3 – A/C Jay Ellsworth:**

\*Asked about the EMS charger; P/A Howe noted Wayne says he can't find the same kind of charger.

\*Microphone on 84 with headset - still having problems with it. Brief discussion; Commissioner Waite to handle it.

### **Company #4 – Captain Bullard:**

\*Asked about the list of batteries including Streamlite, Dewalt, Versa packs. P/A Howe noted there was never a decision made if we were going to stock pile those. Discussion continued.

## **RESOLUTION #192 GIVING PURCHASING AGENT PERMISSION TO PURCHASE BATTERIES ON BATTERY LISTS FROM EACH COMPANY.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED giving Purchasing Agent permission to purchase batteries on battery list from each company.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

P/A Howe noted she has handed out pager and flashlight batteries to everyone who requested them; if it is still an issue please let her know tonight.

### **Report of Chief McConkey:**

\*Ladder scheduled to be tested sometime this month.

\*Recommending that at the company level during voting, he would like to see under the by-laws that it is by secret ballot vote. Chairman Kugler asked for discussion on it. Commissioner B. Bishop said he is not sure it falls under the Board's jurisdiction, or would it be subject to it by-law committee to change it; he definitely sees his point because there have been instances in the past where votes have changed when they have gone from a hand vote to a secret ballot vote without fear of intimidation or retribution. From what he has interpreted from reading Robert's rules, it is at the discretion of the Chair at the meeting, which in the case of company meetings would be the company President. In this case the Board could recommend to the company Presidents, that until such time the by-laws are changed that all votes become secret ballot votes, unless there is a change in the by-laws, which in that case would supersede any previous decree made. Commissioner Spackmann noted that the Chief has a point but that this is overshadowing a bigger problem, that if someone can't vote how they feel without fear

of retribution or intimidation, that is a much bigger problem that we are not addressing. More discussion continued; 2nd A/C Kemp noted that putting that in the by-laws would mean that the approval of the minutes would have to be by secret ballot as well. The by-law committee will meet to take a look at these issues, as well as some others that have come up. The Commissioners then made the recommendation to the company Presidents that until such time the by-law committee looks at this issue, the Company Presidents should use their discretion with regard to secret ballot voting. This will be followed up by a letter from the Commissioners.

\*291 is in Albany.

\*262 – Paul is working on the pump.

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

\*EMS program is continuing.

\*Working on epipen paperwork.

\*Aspirin protocol has been in effect for 6 months; Commissioner Spackmann asked to touch base after the meeting.

### **Planning Board:**

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

\*Dr. Peacock got approved last Thursday.

\*8-10 small sub-divisions going on.

\*Spoke to the Secretary at Town Hall, and he will now be receiving not only the planning board minutes but the zoning board minutes as well.

\*Saratoga Bridges is now on Locust Grove Road- A/C Gibbins noted he was not aware they were there until they got an EMS call. A/C Chandler noted that it was because it was not a planning board issue, but a zoning board issue, and this should not happen again as he will now be getting both sets of minutes.

#### **\*For Town of Wilton, Gary Bullard:**

\*Project by Price Chopper/Wilton Mall got preliminary approval, worked out the driveway issues on that. A/C Chandler noted that the Route 50 job is his company's so if there are any questions you can just ask him.

\*3<sup>rd</sup> stage of development on Old Gick Road is in planning board stages.

\*CVS on Route 9 was started.

\*Nevele's – supposed to become a small strip mall in from with multi-family apartments in the back.

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

#### **Commissioner B. Bishop:**

\*Thanked the companies who donated to the district picnic, which will be held on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Joyce working on letters to be sent out to different vendors and such to see if we can get other donations as well. Planning on a little friendly competition, mini-Olympics sort of thing, hopefully can get someone to donate a trophy. Will keep on updating as we move forward.

\*Had a problem with one of the AC units; Toby Middlebrook came and looked at it. The blower unit actually caught fire at some point and melted the mounting and wiring. Toby is going to see what he can do to get it up and running again.

\*Received an email from Dr. Peacock that she is looking for volunteers to help do some clean up/yard work at the new place. If anyone is interested in helping out please contact Commissioner B. Bishop. She is looking at the weekend of June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

\*It was brought up at Co #3 meeting some concern regarding the whole generator issue and the fact that it was a Kohler and not being a CAT, and the membership is a bit annoyed that they weren't given full disclosure over that in the fact that they were told that there was a

deadline of the end of July for the paperwork to be submitted for the grant money, when in fact there was the opportunity to file for a one year extension, at which point it could have been standardized and they feel a little bamboozled. Commissioner Spackmann disagreed, nobody was bamboozled, he was not aware of the extension and the reason he did not want to go out to bid again was from a legality standpoint; you can't put something out to bid, take reception of those bids and then turn around and put it out because you want something else. He believes that Bill Young explained that to Joyce as well. Commissioner B. Bishop noted that we have already accepted the bid so it is a moot point right now; he is just telling the Board that is the perception of the company and that all the information was not presented to them at the time. Commissioner Robarge was also not aware of the extension as well. Commissioner B. Bishop personally has no problem with the Kohler.

**Commissioner Waite:**

\*Asked the Chief if they looked at that pump where spring hangers hang on 271? The Chief noted they have looked at it but have not gotten back to him, he will call them tomorrow.

\*He was contacted by the highway superintendent and the deal with the town with the generator is not going to go. Ought to look for a generator for Co #2.

\*How much money is left in the painting of the apparatus account? Treasurer J. Bishop noted it is \$16,248.99. Two trucks are left to pain; the chief will take care of it.

**Commissioner Robarge:**

\*Co #3 generator is slated to be shipped on June 27<sup>th</sup>. He is a little offended that you would insinuate that he would bamboozle them; he put a lot of work into it.

\*Should have the numbers for the water softener by the June workshop for Co #1.

**Commissioner Spackmann:**

\*Wanted Commissioner Robarge to know he realizes he worked very hard on Co #3 generator.

\*Gear boot delivery: Garrison ordered the boots ahead of time to save money on the boots – saved about \$200.00. The District has a policy not to pay for items until we receive said property, but Garrison would like to get paid for the boots. There is also the issue of what to do with the boots, should we have Garrison hold them or should we take possession of them and if so, where will they be stored? When asked P/ A Howe said she would prefer to wait and have all the gear delivered at the same time like the past two years, unless Garrison really needs the money. Garrison is okay with storing the boots. After brief discussion, the Commissioners agreed they will not pay until they receive all the goods together, as always.

\*Access proposal has been submitted; gave a brief overview.

**Commissioner Kugler:**

\*Needs to know from each company how many air bottles will be going out of date. Already has a figure from Gary. A/C Chandler said he knows he has 15. Would like to know by the June workshop. Jill and Gary Gibbins to coordinate on this together. Brief discussion continued.

**New Business:**

\*SOG's: Commissioner B. Bishop looked at some of the changes, although there weren't very many changes that came back. There is a lot of redundancy with policies included in the SOG's, and he is a little disappointed that there weren't very many changes except the name of a course and 1 or 2 other changes, but he would be fine with accepting them.

Commissioner Waite said he was okay with them. Commissioner Spackmann said there were things missing but it was a good first start.

**RESOLUTION #193 APPROVING THE SOG'S WITH CHANGES AND GIVING THE SECRETARY PERMISSION TO HAVE KINKO'S PRINT UP COPIES; MONEY TO COME OUT OF THE OPERATIONS ACCOUNT.**

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED approving the SOG's with changes and giving the Secretary permission to have Kinko's print up copies; money to come out of the operations account.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

\*Commissioner Spackmann felt the 30 day wait under the purchasing policy needs to be revisited. Would like to add it to the June workshop agenda for discussion, as well as making sure the light duty policy is on the agenda.

\*Treasurer J. Bishop received a past due bill for A/C Chandler's schooling from August 14, 2007 for \$25 that was never paid. It was just received June 10<sup>th</sup>. Money to come out of training account. She also has a Visa bill from Lowe's for extension cords and pipe wrenches; the pipe wrenches were returned so the bill is for \$228.67. Commissioner B. Bishop asked if we had an account at Lowe's; P/ A Howe noted there is not a district account there. She also noted that the reason the Treasurer did not get the bill until tonight is because she wanted to make sure the Treasurer had the credit as well as the bill together. Treasurer J. Bishop also had a bill from Motorola for the 10 pagers received for \$3840.00 dated June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**RESOLUTION #194 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO PAY \$25 PAST DUE BILL FOR MIKE CHANDLER'S TRAINING IN AUGUST 2007, BILL FROM LOWE'S FOR \$228.67 AND BILL FROM MOTOROLA FOR \$3840.00.**

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to give Treasurer permission to pay \$25 past due bill for Mike Chandler's training in August 2007, bill from Lowe's for \$228.67 and bill from Motorola for \$3840.00.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #195 TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.**

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: B. Bishop

RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner B. Bishop with a second from Commissioner Spackmann to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus  
District Secretary