

# **Board of Fire Commissioners**

Greenfield Fire District  
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## **September 27, 2007 Workshop**

Workshop began at 8:02 pm due to the severe rain storms that passed through the area.

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

Others in attendance were: Chief McConkey, A/C G. Gibbins, A/C Ellsworth, FF B. Bishop

**Commissioner Kugler** started off with the fire extinguishers. He explained that Fred Whipple went through each company to examine the fire extinguishers, and apparently there were issues with Wildfire. Mr. Whipple said that there were fire extinguishers that were tagged a year ago that should have never been tagged. Commissioner Kugler went through each company and explained what needed to be replaced, as per Fred Whipple. A/C Gibbins noted that it may be cheaper to just replace rather than have them hydro'd and tested. Commissioner Kugler explained that he had the purchasing agent do some research and B-Lan seems to be the cheapest; for example Whipple wants \$117.50 for a 20 pounder, and B-Lan will sell it to us for \$85.79. Commissioner Kugler figured it out that if Fred Whipple does everything, including hydro, refill, recharge and he supplies the bottles the price was \$2589.00. If we buy our own bottles and Fred does the rest of the work it comes to \$2305.00. He asked the Commissioners what they wanted to do. Commissioner Spackmann had a concern as to where the money would come from; Commissioner Kugler said it would have to be taken out somewhere. The other problem is that Porters Ansel system is totally out of compliance right now, and Commissioner Waite is not present tonight, and in order to fix it right it would need another nozzle, the tank needs to be replaced and should have been replaced years ago, the whole system on that wall needs to be replaced. According to Fred he does not do that but he had an outside outfit that came and looked at it and the cost would be about \$1300.00. Further discussion followed. The Chief thought the price was a little high and he would check around.

It was decided that Fred Whipple will do the servicing, but we will buy our own replacements. Discussion was also held as to what to do with the fire extinguishers that could no longer be used. A/C Gibbins noted they could be scrapped and recycled at Finkleman's.

There was also discussion for the EMS people to get their cards renewed. Commissioner Robarge asked A/C Gibbins how much that would be; it was noted it would be in the hundreds, not the thousands. The Chief asked if anything came out yet about the state requirements for the rope; Commissioner Spackmann noted it was not totally law.

Discussion then began about finalizing the By-laws, with FF Brian Bishop going through the changes that the by-law committee had suggested. There was some discussion, and only minor changes made.

**RESOLUTION #178 TO ACCEPT CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS, TO BE POSTED IN THE FIREHOUSES FOR SIXTY DAYS AND RATIFIED BY THE BOARD AT THE DECEMBER 2007 COMMISSIONERS MEETING.**

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to accept changes in the by-laws, to be posted in the firehouses for sixty days and ratified by the Board at the December 2007 Commissioners meeting.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

## **RESOLUTION #179 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO PAY BILLS SUBMITTED BY ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE.**

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to give Treasurer permission to pay bills submitted by anniversary committee.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Kugler asked if anyone had anything else to bring up. Commissioner Spackmann felt that the whole parking lot should not be sealed in 1 night, that it was pretty ridiculous to have to park 2 million dollars worth of equipment outside on someone's piece of property in order to save money sealing the driveway. Commissioner Robarge agreed. Commissioner Spackmann also noted that it should not be scheduled on the night of the election. Commissioner Kugler noted that he was not in charge. Discussion followed; A/C Ellsworth noted that last year the trucks were in the building when it was sealed and you couldn't have gotten out if you needed to; Commissioner Robarge noted that he could have driven across it if necessary. It was noted that another option could be to seal half the driveway at a time.

Secretary Petkus noted she and Commissioner Spackmann had talked a little bit about it that afternoon but it was something that the Commissioners needed to start thinking about, are we going to separate the voting districts out at the Commissioners election in December? And are we going to have any type of election at Co #1 and Co #4 from now on? Commissioner Kugler asked A/C Gibbins what he thought about it and he noted that if that was going to happen there would need to be more lighting out in the parking lot, otherwise he does not have a problem with it. More discussion followed. A/C Ellsworth said he did not like the idea. Commissioner Spackmann pointed out that the election would have to be held in Middle Grove and Maple Avenue because it was put in the newsletter out, so it would have to put up for discussion starting next year. More discussion followed; it was decided to leave the voting the way it is for this year.

Workshop was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus  
District Secretary