

Board of Fire Commissioners

Greenfield Fire District
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The April 2010 meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at Company #1 by Chairman Don Kugler at 7:05 PM on April 14, 2010. The flag salute and a moment of silence were recognized for departed members.

Present were:

Commissioners: B. Chouinard, Kugler, Robarge, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary J. Petkus, P/A J. Chouinard, Treasurer J. Bishop, Deputy Treasurer Perkins.

Please see sign in sheet for others in attendance.

Chairman Kugler then proceeded to open the two bids received for the Porter Corners firehouse meeting room floor repairs.

1. Complete Construction, POB 148 Rock City Falls, NY 12863
Total bid: \$57,180.00. Included in the bid is a check for 5% project deposit of \$2,884.00
2. LG White & Sons, 2 S. Westcott Road Schenectady, NY 12306
Total bid: \$89,410.00.

Chairman Kugler noted that the bids would be turned over to the committee for their review.

RESOLUTION #86 TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:11 PM WITH DR. PEACOCK REGARDING A MEDICAL ISSUE.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: B. Chouinard

RESOLVED to go into executive session at 7:11 pm with Dr. Peacock regarding a medical issue.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #87 TO RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:36 PM.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to reconvene from executive session at 8:36 PM.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kugler asked for questions/comments regarding the abstract:

Chief Lant questioned Claim #10173 and #10191; brief discussion, money for #10173 to come out of the conventions account and the Other account for #10191.

RESOLUTION #88 TO PAY CLAIM #10164 THROUGH CLAIM #10231, TOTALING \$45,156.30.

A3410.1	\$ 3,998.62
A3410.2	9,042.00
A3410.4	31,706.38
A9055.8	419.30

Total:	\$ 45,156.30

MOTION: Kugler
SECOND: B. Chouinard
RESOLVED: to pay claim #10164 through claim #10231, totaling \$45,156.30.
VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #89 TO PAY CLAIM #BR002 FROM THE BUILDING RESERVE FUND, PER PREVIOUS PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, TOTALING \$2,190.00.

R3400.0	\$2,190.00

Total:	\$2,190.00

MOTION: Waite
SECOND: Robarge
RESOLVED to pay Claim #BR002 from the Building Reserve Fund, per previous permissive referendum, totaling \$2,190.00.
VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #90 TO APPROVE THE MARCH 10, 2010 COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES.

MOTION: Waite
SECOND: B. Chouinard
RESOLVED to approve the March 10, 2010 Commissioner Meeting Minutes.
VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Thank You letter received from the Barss Family regarding their recent loss of Ruth Barss.
- Asked if anyone is interested in going to the AFDCA Spring Workshop, to be held at Thomas Corners on May 22nd. She needs to know by the April Workshop, and will then need a resolution and permission for Treasurer to send payment.
- If anyone is interested in the AFDCA Annual Banquet being held on May 1st at the Holiday Inn in Albany, need an answer this evening as well as a resolution. No one to go this year.

Purchasing: P/A J. Chouinard

- Flags: Co #1, 2 and 3 responded; Co #3 flags were left in their office, has flags for others this evening. Co #4 declined flags. Medallions on order.
- D/C G. Gibbins received cell phone battery.

- Hose: Garrison gave us hose to borrow, but we have had it so long that they are now being charged for the hose. Captain G. Bullard is supposed to be setting up a hose committee to review what they want to do.
- Albany Communications will be delivering radios with invoices next week; Joyce to finalize insurance claims at that time.
- SCBA bottles: ordered but waiting for final cost.
- Co #3 received Nextel charger, chain saw repaired and left on desk in their office. Cow tags on order and vendor is waiting for yellow. D/C Ellsworth needs to speak to Commissioner B. Chouinard after meeting about combo tool.

Applications for membership:

Greenfield Center Company #1: None.

Porter Corners Company #2: Nick Swift, under 18, present tonight, received District Manual

Middle Grove Company #3: None.

Maple Avenue Company #4: Christopher Kyne, not present, did not receive District Manual yet. Secretary J. Petkus noted she was not able to make up his gear tags and access, and she is a bit confused because she sent an email back on March 16th asking for his picture for access and gear tags, as well as his tag #, and received an email by Lt. Dussault forwarded to her by the Purchasing Agent that Mr. Kyne was given John Kehoe's pager and Jeff Doty's tag number, even though both are still members of the department. Brief discussion; John Kehoe on leave of absence and Jeff Doty's status undetermined. Change of Membership paperwork to be completed and handed in.

Requests for Change in Membership:

Greenfield Center Company #1: None.

Porter Corners Company #2: None.

Middle Grove Company #3: None.

Maple Avenue Company #4: None.

RESOLUTION #91 TO ACCEPT ABOVE NEW MEMBERS.

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: B. Chouinard

RESOLVED to accept above new members.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Grants:

Commissioner Kugler noted that last fall he was at a meeting at the Knox Fire District and noticed a van that had been donated to them by Time Warner Cable. Thought it would be nice to have something like that for fire police to carry all their equipment. Commissioner Kugler wrote a letter to TWC back in December and just today received a call from them to come and pick out a van. Would like permission from the Board for him and Jack Atwell to proceed.

RESOLUTION #92 GIVING COMMISSIONER KUGLER AND FIRE POLICE PRESIDENT JACK ATWELL PERMISSION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE DONATION OF A VAN FROM TIME WARNER CABLE.

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: B. Chouinard

RESOLVED to give Commissioner Kugler and Fire Police President Jack Atwell permission to move forward with the donation of a van from Time Warner Cable.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Spackmann noted that he thought there should be some coordination with the Chief and possibly the Deputy Chief of the firehouse where it will be housed before moving ahead. Commissioner Kugler noted he already mentioned it to the Chief. Chief Lant noted that if that is what the fire police want they should have it.

Report of the Chief: John Lant

- Had a grant from the DEC for the \$1000 match for brush equipment, noting that he thought we spent some money on forest equipment recently. Brief discussion; P/A J. Chouinard to handle the paperwork.
- Co #4 will be going to Quaker Springs tomorrow and Saturday on farm accident training.
- Still having problems with radio on 281. Brief discussion; Commissioner Waite to call Adirondack tomorrow.
- Got some prices for the phone/fax on 263, would like to see it taken care of; P/A J. Chouinard noted that D/C G. Gibbins was given all the paperwork on it from ATT and is supposed to get back to her on whether it is a yes or no. It will be about \$300 or \$400 for the phone and install.

RESOLUTION #93 GIVING CHIEF LANT, D/C G. GIBBINS AND P/A J. CHOUINARD PERMISSION TO TAKE CARE OF THE PHONE/FAX FOR 263.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to give Chief Lant, D/C G. Gibbins and P/A J. Chouinard permission to take care of the phone/fax for 263.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Will be attending the Corinth parade on May 30th.
- Sending four people for the Honor Guard to the AFDSNY conference in Saratoga on Friday morning.
- Thinks the physicals are going well, but may get a different answer in a minute.
- Fit tests are going good; Gary is going to set up a Saturday date.
- Last month had the following drills: 4 company Hazmat training, 4 company jaws training, blood borne pathogens, Hazmat drill at Maple Avenue Middle School.
- Co #1 finishing up OSHA training, ladder, jaws; Co #2 went to Galway drill, Co #3 had Firetracker training and 281 with all the changes and brush fires; Co #4 had CP rail and OSHA make up.
- Trucks at KME: lot of work done on the trucks, everyone is very happy with them, thinks they are more efficient, user friendly and safer.

Costs of trucks as follows:

291 - \$22,351.98; 281 - \$16,422.94; 284 - \$6,522.67; 261 - \$14,779.60.

Over budget by \$77.19. Also brought up that 273 portable tank is not safe and Zico has been ordered for \$5,735.15. Noted that once you get going, it is a lot of labor. Tarps on the brush trucks, need to make things for them to fit was \$4500.00. 262, 282, 292 and 283 for the cover is probably \$6800.00 total. 271 is NFPA approved but should probably be covered too. Figured it will cost about another \$33,000.00, maybe take another \$38-

40,000.00 out of reserve to get it all done. Hired a consultant three years ago and probably should have started then, blames the board, blames the officers, blames everybody, somebody should have started this process going. Brief discussion continued regarding the need to complete everything this year, the safety aspect, adding a line item budget next year. Commissioner B. Chouinard questioned why 284 was done before Co #2 front line truck, when it was previously agreed that all front line trucks were going to get done first and then we would work on second line trucks. The Chief noted there was discussion of the safety issue of 273 and that the part was ordered but never came and so the thought was to bring the truck down and get the tarp on it. Commissioner B. Chouinard noted it went from the tarp to everything else being mounted on it, cost an extra \$5,900.00. The Chief noted that it is a truck you are going to keep for quite a few years, but he does take some of the blame on that. Commissioner Spackmann noted that the Chief did call him about this while he was acting chairman and did say it was down there getting taken care of and he didn't pick up on it at the time. More discussion continued; it was agreed that 273 should get done and the Chief will get a better idea of the other costs; added to the April workshop agenda for further discussion. Chief Lant thanked the Board for the money.

Reports from Companies:

Company #1 – D/C Gary Gibbins:

- Not present.

Company #2 – A/C Dave Middlebrook:

- Spoke to Joyce regarding the email she sent out about the Miner Road residence; the individual does live in the Town of Corinth.
- Suburban tank is still there; P/A J. Chouinard to take care of it. Chief Lant questioned the price of propane at \$1.99; Treasurer J. Bishop noted that it was what we paid.
- Co #2 would like permission for their coin drop.

RESOLUTION #94 GIVING ALL FOUR COMPANIES PERMISSION TO HAVE THEIR 2010 SPRING/SUMMER COIN DROP FUNDRAISERS.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: B. Chouinard

RESOLVED to give all four companies permission to have their 2010 spring/summer coin drop fundraisers.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Company #3 – D/C Jay Ellsworth:

- Requested permission to hold a Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 9th.

RESOLUTION #95 GIVING CO #3 PERMISSION TO HOLD A MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2010.

MOTION: Robarge

SECOND: B. Chouinard

RESOLVED to give Co #3 permission to hold a Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 9, 2010.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Asked when the bottles would be hydro'ed; Commissioner Kugler contacted Tri-City, he should be up the first of the week.
- Has a potential member who lives 4/10 of a mile out of the District, lives with another member. Would like permission to move forward with application.

RESOLUTION #96 GIVING CO #3 PERMISSION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OUT OF DISTRICT APPLICANT CHRIS THURMAN.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to give Co #3 permission to move forward with out of district applicant Chris Thurman.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Requested that if the radio on 281 cannot get fixed, could a new one be ordered, it is a front line truck. Discussion; Commissioner Waite will call Adirondack tomorrow and either get it fixed or get a quote for a new system.

Company #4 – D/C John King:

- Not present.
- Chief Lant noted that 291 on board charger is shorting out. Spoke to Bonesteel, usually they have to take them out and send them somewhere to rebuild them, and it takes about a week.

Report of District EMS Coordinator: Justin Burwell

- Not present.

Planning Board:

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

- Not present.

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

- Not present.

Reports of the Commissioners:

Commissioner B. Chouinard:

- Asked of Co #2 battery tenders were installed. A/C Middlebrook noted that as of Tuesday night no, they are waiting on Gary Gibbins to get prices. Added to workshop agenda.
- Co #4 would like to get lawn mowers serviced. Permission granted.

Commissioner Robarge:

- Asked Commissioners Spackmann and B. Chouinard if they had a meeting with the Maple Avenue officers to discuss dissolving from the Fire District. Commissioner B. Chouinard noted dissolving from the fire district, no; Commissioner Spackmann asked what Commissioner Robarge meant by that. Commissioner Robarge clarified Maple Avenue seceding from the District. Commissioner Spackmann noted he has talked with a number of people and met with the officers last Sunday to talk about a variety of things including reorganization of the fire district. Chief Lant noted the meeting was about the

division of the fire department 5, 10, 20 years from now, as well as noting he wanted to go on record as District Chief he is against closing Porters Corners, that was a meeting to try and save the taxpayers money because we are all taxpayers and he is big believer all these fire districts are out of control. Commissioner Spackmann agreed including ourselves. Commissioner Robarge asked if there was discussion with Terry Hannigan about separating from the District at any point. Commissioner Spackmann noted he did not; he did discuss with him about reorganizing the fire district, but he never met with him though.

Commissioner Waite:

- Regarding the bids that were received, Reid and Putnam understood the job better than the other guy did. The other guy was surprised there was more to the job than what he figured.

Commissioner Spackmann:

- Asked about the water softener at Maple Avenue, has anyone spoke to Toby? Added to workshop agenda.
- Explained that when he ran for re-election this year, he spoke to quite a number of individuals afterward of the concerns about the fire district, what they thought of the election, what they thought about the budget and a great number of them voiced concern about the tax rate. He found out through Commissioner Kugler that the tax rate in the Town of Greenfield is the same as the fire tax, except there was a town tax increase this year. Commissioner Kugler noted it was 14.7%. Commissioner Spackmann noted a lot of people expressed concern to him that that is an example to him that maybe things are a little out of whack and why is that. He did not have an answer for them. The ultimate question he is asking is can we do things better, can we cut costs, can we trim fat, can we help separate the two tax bills? Wilton Fire District certainly got whacked, and hard for a number of reasons, he has the report if anyone wants to look at it later. Mostly it says they spend too much and specifically unnecessarily. Those are the same two comments he has heard from a variety of people in this town and some of the officers in some aspects. Some residents asked him what could be done, and they provided some ideas as well, one of which is to close Porter Corners, get rid of the LOSAP program, and reorganize the fire district into potentially one or more separate entities. He started investigating them all and met with the officers on Sunday to let them know what he has been looking at. They voiced some concerns and commented on these things, and he feels they are all worth looking into. Commissioner Spackmann further noted that earlier this evening Commissioner Waite pulled him aside and commented he had heard that Commissioner Spackmann did not care about a station that is 15 miles away. Commissioner Spackmann noted that that was not what he said, what he said to the officers the other night and for public record, was that he has a hard time being a Wilton resident, as an elected official acting as a bean counter and closing a fire station 15 miles away that he is not intimately affected by, even though unfortunately that is his duty. His duty as an elected official, as well as the others sitting at this table, is to look at the costs and unfortunately over the years we haven't really done that. He would prefer not to close Porter Corners and it is certainly not fair to the Porters residents. Instead what he would prefer to do is to get rid of the LOSAP plan. He noted that in speaking to many firefighters about getting rid of LOSAP, their response to him was they did not do this for money, they do it to serve their community. He would like to go back to the taxpayers for 2011 and be able to say they cut taxes 10%. The economy stinks and it is going to get worse before it gets better and he joined 15 years ago to serve the community, not take from it. He

asked the Board and the membership to reflect upon that and discuss it more next month. Brief discussion continued; D/C Ellsworth questioned Town tax versus fire tax in other Towns, and noted that as a taxpayer the tax that really bothers him is the school tax, but especially the Library tax, and it bothers him to hear people complaining about the fire tax when they are paying more in library tax. He further noted that at Sunday night's meeting and will mention it again tonight that Wilton's budget is about the same as ours and they are running one firehouse while we are running four firehouses and a whole lot more apparatus, and he really does not think we are out of control, but yes, there are ways we could cut the budget in places. He also noted that he is against getting rid of the LOSAP program, it is not going to help the members now, but help the members down the road. More discussion continued, including whether or not the LOSAP has helped to recruit new membership. D/C Ellsworth noted that the LOSAP was a big draw for quite a few of Co #3 new members in the last year or so. Chief Lant commented that was not why he joined, but he hated to take something away from someone too.

Commissioner Kugler:

- Noted that he is short in the SCBA account and will not be able to pay for the bottles ordered, the voice amplifiers and masks were taken out of that account as well. Will figure out the amount needed and will have to go to the reserve account for some money. Will have the figures for the April workshop.

New Business:

- Commissioner Waite noted fire police needed 6 radios, the Maxim's are so old no one wants to work on them anymore. Added to April workshop agenda.
- Commissioner Kugler noted that Co #3 is almost at their 50 member limit, and would like the Board to think about passing a resolution to increase the limit. Added to workshop agenda.
- Firefighter classification system: Officers were to have discussed and brought back their recommendation to the Board; tabled for discussion at April workshop.
- P/A J. Chouinard noted that she has SCBA and Hazmat stickers, as well as hoods and gloves. Received a bill for \$100.00 from LaRosa for the decals on the Chief's vehicle; money to be taken out of Repairs to Apparatus.
- Chief Lant requested Secretary Petkus send an email to the Deputy Chief's regarding bottles that need to be hydro'ed.
- Treasurer J. Bishop noted that earlier this evening D/C King had approached her and asked if she had received the mileage sheet he had faxed to the office back on April 7th, which she had not. Commissioner Spackmann noted if it is after the 2 month mark, and he has a record of faxing it, it can be paid. Treasurer J. Bishop noted he just has to print off the record from the fax machine; if it is March's mileage he can just resubmit it.
- Stan Week's Greenfield resident, commented that it is great and commends the Board taking a hard look at what it costs to operate. He did note his concern about the LOSAP because when it began, he began to see what other volunteer departments were doing and some of them are 3 and 4 times as much return, and was very concerned that all of a sudden they would start stepping it up; he is okay where it is now but he would not advise stepping it up. He also felt that there was a lot of rolling stock, he doesn't mind having four locations, but let's really look at what it takes to respond, the amount of rolling stock in his opinion is huge. Commissioner Spackmann commented that the officers have already been looking at that. He further noted that his original investigation since January was of a more immediate return, whereas when looking at the rolling stock you are not going to have any dividends in terms of budget for about 10 years. The idea is to

combine 2 trucks into 1, but the problem is that takes money to do this and that takes time. He agreed wholeheartedly that it does need to happen, and felt that was the consensus of the officers as well.

- Councilman Walt Chandler asked how much the radios cost; the GCBA would be interested in helping out. They are very supportive of the fire department and would be interested in doing fundraisers for the fire companies as well. He further noted that as a resident he would be sad to see Porter Corners close, he would look to try to get more support and he is not afraid to pay taxes for what they do and he is very proud of them. Commissioner Spackmann noted that he thought it was great for the GCBA offer of help with fundraisers and stuff, but the problem is it all comes out of the same pockets, so if you want true tax reform you have to lower costs. He is certainly not trying to minimize the offer, nor is he immune to the impact closing Porter Corners would have to that hamlet.
- George Habig, Greenfield resident, commented on the Galway Co-Op again for fuel, any way to save money, even a little, helps. There was conflicting information as to whether or not the Galway Co-Op delivered to our area.

RESOLUTION #97 GIVING THE DEPARTMENT PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE BALLSTON SPA MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON MAY 29, 2010.

MOTION: Robarge

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to give the Department permission to attend the Ballston Spa Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2010.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #98 TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner B. Chouinard with a second from Commissioner Robarge to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary