

Board of Fire Commissioners

Greenfield Fire District
P.O. Box 103
Greenfield Center, NY 12833
(518) 893-0723

April 24, 2008 Workshop

Workshop began at 7:04 pm.

Present were: Commissioners B. Bishop, Kugler, Robarge, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary Petkus, Chief McConkey. Others in attendance: various officers and members of the Greenfield Fire District.

RESOLUTION #143 TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:04 PM REGARDING A PERSONNEL ISSUE WITH MAPLE AVENUE COMPANY #4.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to go into executive session at 7:04 PM regarding a personnel issue with Maple Avenue Company #4.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #144 TO RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:00 PM.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to reconvene from executive session at 8:00 PM.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #145 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2008 AND APRIL 3, 2008 WORKSHOPS.

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2008 and April 3, 2008 Workshops.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

❖ Secretary Petkus:

- Handed out her update;
- Damaged bulletin board was never picked up, would like to put it to good use as a general information board - thought about placing it on the wall between the bathroom doors. Not an outside board. A/C Gibbins to help install it.

RESOLUTION #146 GIVING THE SECRETARY PERMISSION TO INSTALL BULLETIN BOARD.

MOTION: Robarge

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to give the Secretary permission to install bulletin board.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Reminder about the Disciplinary policy.
- Records clean up: progress. Reminder to Chairman Kugler that he needs to go through 2 boxes for historical value; the rest can be destroyed.

Commissioner Spackmann noted the disciplinary policy was supposed to be reviewed by the officers; A/C Gibbins noted they would look at it at the next officers meeting and bring any recommendations to the May Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Spackmann also noted all the Tech II stuff has been completed and he and Joyce will be working on the access system going online over the summer.

❖ **Commissioner B. Bishop:**

- Will have a demo ID tag ready to go at the officers meeting and then give some feedback between then and the Commissioners May meeting;

❖ **Commissioner Robarge:**

- Spoke to Jim Curran of Curran Electric and he will be starting the installation of Co #3 generator next week. He asked for \$3000.00 for materials.

RESOLUTION #147 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO ISSUE A CHECK FOR \$3000.00 FOR MATERIALS TO CURRAN ELECTRIC, INC.

MOTION: Robarge

SECOND: B. Bishop

RESOLVED to give Treasurer permission to issue a check for \$3000.00 for materials to Curran Electric, Inc.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Asked A/C Ellsworth if Co #3 could mark out the right of way for National Grid. Secretary Petkus to find the deed and get photocopy to A/C Ellsworth;
- Co #1 building committee would like to start work in the radio room and work in phases.

Secretary Petkus asked permission to issue temporary access card to Co #3 for Curran Electric.

RESOLUTION #148 GIVING THE SECRETARY PERMISSION TO ISSUE A TEMPORARY ACCESS ID CARD TO CURRAN ELECTRIC.

MOTION: Robarge

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to give the Secretary permission to issue a temporary access ID card to Curran Electric.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

❖ **Commissioner Waite:**

- Called a couple of Commissioners regarding repairs to the metal on the firehouse; will be over \$250.00. Phil Putnam offered to fix it for nothing; we just need to pay for materials.

RESOLUTION #149 GIVING PHIL PUTNAM PERMISSION TO FIX METAL AT CO #2, THE DISTRICT TO PAY FOR THE MATERIALS.

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: B. Bishop

RESOLVED to give Phil Putnam permission to fix metal at Co #2, the District to pay for the materials.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Co #2 has been looking into incorporating; if you go online and look under the state registry, only Co #3 is incorporated. Brief discussion continued. Chairman Kugler asked each company to give a copy of their incorporated papers to the District to keep on file. Attorney is working on the papers for Co #2.

❖ Commissioner Spackmann:

- Newsletter to be mailed the first part of May, needs to send a 50% deposit.

RESOLUTION #150 GIVING TREASURER PERMISSION TO CUT CHECK FOR 50% OF THE COST OF THE NEWSLETTER.

MOTION: B. Bishop

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to give Treasurer permission to cut check for 50% of the cost of the newsletter.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

❖ Commissioner Kugler:

- Asked A/C Gibbins about the SOG's as he is working on them with the Chief. A/C Gibbins noted they are going to try to bring that up at the May meeting also.

❖ Special Topics of Discussion:

- New Membership applications from Co #4: Alex Mosher and Christopher Franco, both live about 1/2 a mile outside the District.

RESOLUTION #151 GIVING MAPLE AVENUE CO #4 PERMISSION TO CONTINUE ON WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS OF ALEX MOSHER AND CHRISTOPHER FRANCO.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to give Maple Avenue Co #4 permission to continue on with the application process of Alex Mosher and Christopher Franco.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Received two Change in Membership forms regarding Charles Senecal and Ashley Irish, both from Co #2. Forms both dated December 4, 2007. Commissioner Waite noted she was still in, she came to their meeting. A/C Chandler noted she is trying to re-apply to get in. Chairman Kugler noted she can't re-apply as she is already in. A/C Chandler noted she was dismissed back in October and he told her she was suspended and she didn't show up for several months. She was told to come to the December meeting to address the other members and she failed to do so. He does not even know where Charles Senecal lives anymore; he has not shown up for over

a year. Commissioner Waite said Ms. Irish is coming now and she wants a second chance. Commissioner B. Bishop asked why this paperwork was not handed in in December if she was released from the Company back then. A/C Chandler noted it slipped through the cracks, and this is the way the officers want it done. Commissioner Waite noted he was not aware of this and he feels she is already in and she should just continue and see how she works out and if she doesn't show up in the next six months then she's out. Commissioner Robarge suggested holding the form until the May meeting and in that time contact her to see what her intentions are. Chairman Kugler requested the Secretary to change the date to now and from here on in, if you sign and date them and then don't hand them in they are not applicable. Commissioner Spackmann clarified that she is still a member until the Commissioners sign off on them.

RESOLUTION #152 TO ACCEPT THE TERMINATION OF CHARLES SENEAL.

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to accept the termination of Charles Senecal.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

❖ Discussion regarding truck leasing:

- Commissioner Waite said he read the minutes from the meeting that he could not make with the attorney, and his opinion has changed and he thinks they ought to pay cash for them.
- Commissioner Robarge stated his opinion has not changed and he feels leasing is not in the best interest of the District or the taxpayer.
- Commissioner B. Bishop asked if we heard from Mr. Young regarding the wording of the lease agreement and has it been approved by him. Secretary Petkus noted she has not heard from him yet. As far as the suggestion of bringing it out to the voters again, although that would give us the best flexibility he doesn't see how that would ever fly. The people he has spoken to in the District have no interest in seeing it being brought up again.
- Commissioner Spackmann said the whole situation stinks and unfortunately it is going to cost money to get out of it. The 5 year lease option compared to the 10 year lease purchase that requires voter approval, is only about \$90,000.00 more. Feels the firemen deserve safe equipment and urged the Board to look at the lease option. Jay Farrell noted that the truck is now on the production line and there will be no changes made other than certain changes such as the telescopic lights, back up camera, things like that. The truck goes on to the fabrication line tomorrow. He also explained that Pierce needs an answer tomorrow morning. He knows that Monday it is going to go back out onto the lot. Lengthy discussion continued.
- Commissioner Robarge explained that he is in favor of replacing the truck, he is just not supporting the lease as he feels it is too expensive. He would much rather we go into a strict spending mode, save the money and then buy the trucks.
- Commissioner B. Bishop said he was not prepared to make a decision until he hears from Bill Young about the verbiage of the lease.
- Commissioner Waite was not in favor of making a decision tonight.
- Chairman Kugler asked Secretary Petkus to advertise a special meeting next week.
- Brief discussion followed, including the potential repair costs of 293 estimated at \$50,000.00, 3% increase in the cost of the price of fire trucks and the 2009 NFPA standards that will be coming out. Commissioner Spackmann is in favor of getting

the truck in August, get rid of 293, minimize our expenses from that albatross and out this behind us as the officers have suggested for them to do.

- The Commissioners suggested that the truck committee meet again to discuss the options and what they may want to do.
- Jay Farrell suggested the option of a straight revolving loan, which is around 2.3%; Commissioner Spackmann noted he had and it is not much of an option in his opinion.
- Jack Atwell, asking as a taxpayer, you are trying to figure out how to buy an aerial truck and you are also planning on buying another aerial truck in a couple of months. It looks like you are trying to buy two trucks no matter what and you are just trying to circumvent the taxpayer by being creative. Commissioner Spackmann noted that it was his conclusion and it is wrong; A/C Gibbins suggested at the last workshop that we can go two years to buy his.

RESOLUTION #153 GIVING THE SECRETARY PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE A WORKSHOP FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008 AT 7 PM AT CO #1.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to give the Secretary permission to advertise a workshop for Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 7 PM at Co #1.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- A/C Lant said he would like to see 293 back in full service. Some of the Commissioners felt it should be the decision of the Chief and the officers. Commissioner Robarge asked about the sticker for the ladder; it has not been found as of yet. A/C Ellsworth felt that if the ladder was not inspected it should not be in service; Commissioner Robarge agreed. It was noted that it was inspected last year and the Chief is apparently looking into it. Discussion continued.

❖ Miscellaneous Discussion:

- District guidelines review:
 - Code of Conduct
 - Chief's Vehicle
 - Computer Use
 - Credit CardNo changes made to the above four policies.
- Secretary Petkus noted that last month there was a change in the Restricted Duty Policy, but no resolution was ever made.

RESOLUTION #154 TO ACCEPT CHANGES MADE LAST MONTH TO THE RESTRICTED DUTY POLICY.

MOTION: B. Bishop

SECOND: Kugler

RESOLVED to accept changes made last month to the Restricted Duty Policy.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Employee handbook tabled until next month to give more time for the Commissioners to review.

- District Historian: Commissioner B. Bishop said he would be interested in working on this. Commissioner Waite to also help.

RESOLUTION #155 MAKING COMMISSIONER B. BISHOP DISTRICT HISTORIAN AND GIVING HIM PERMISSION TO FORM ANY RELATED COMMITTEES OR HELP THAT HE MAY NEED.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to make Commissioner B. Bishop District Historian and giving him permission to form any related committees or help that he may need.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Secretary Petkus asked the Commissioners to sign off on the hose ramp paperwork; A/C Chandler noted that was the cheapest price Jill found.
- A/C Lant asked about the shipping on the cutters – was tabled for 30 days, to be discussed at the Commissioners May meeting.
- Commissioner Spackmann explained that he met with Gary Gibbins and Clark Hayward on Tuesday night about purchasing the life blankets; they are about \$5000.00 each. LifeNet and Albany Med Flight use them. Because of the distance they have to pull people out of the woods with the snowmobile or with the ATV, they help to bring up core body temperature before they are transferred to the chopper.

Motion was made by Commissioner Spackmann, with a second from Commissioner B. Bishop to dispense with the reading of the minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Spackmann with a second from Commissioner Robarge to adjourn the workshop. All in favor, motion carried.

Workshop was adjourned at 9.17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary