

Board of Fire Commissioners

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

April 30, 2008 Special Meeting

Workshop began at 7:10 pm.

Present were: Commissioners B. Bishop, Kugler, Robarge, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary Petkus, Chief McConkey. Others in attendance: see attendance sheet.

Chairman Kugler opened the meeting with the flag salute and a moment of silence for departed members. He then turned the meeting over the Commissioner B. Bishop for an update from the truck committee, who then presented the following points:

- It is the recommendation of the truck committee to move forward with the truck process to purchase the 75 foot aluminum ladder truck for Greenfield Center;
- Make the necessary repairs to the ladder at Maple Avenue to hopefully buy some time to pay cash for both trucks;
- This was not a unanimous decision of the truck committee, it was five to two;
- The truck committee is just another part of the process and the recommendation of the truck committee comes back to the Commissioners, and at this point there has been no recommendation by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Discussion: aerial inspection:

Chairman Kugler asked the Chief if they should wait until October for that when the two years is up or get it done now. The Chief noted it was already in the process now anyway, and Aerial Inspection would be calling before they come up. Commissioner B. Bishop asked the Chief to contact everyone when he finds out when they are coming up to do the inspection. He also asked for some clarification that the last time it was inspected was October 2, 2006, and what the NFPA actual recommendations are on inspections of an aerial apparatus. The Chief explained that he was told it was two years, but somebody told him now it was one year. Secretary Petkus noted she had spoken to Pat at Aerial Inspection and it is only good for a year. Commissioner Robarge asked the Chief if it should be taken out of service until it is inspected, because he himself does not feel comfortable keeping the truck in service. Commissioner Waite agreed and Chairman Kugler added that if there was an incident with it, OSHA would be living here. The Chief deferred to Captain G. Bullard, who noted it is functionally fine.

RESOLUTION #156 TO TAKE 293 OUT OF SERVICE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE AERIAL INSPECTION IS COMPLETE.

MOTION: Robarge

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to take 293 out of service until such time as the aerial inspection is complete.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion: preliminary 2009 budget:

Chairman Kugler said that they needed to start taking a look at the budget for next year and set up some meetings. Budget is not due to the Town until November 7th. Asked the other Commissioners to take a look at it individually and begin discussion at the next workshop. Secretary Petkus noted there were scheduled workshops in May and June.

Chairman Kugler then asked if there were any questions in the audience for the Board.

Firefighter Brian Gibbins asked what the status was on the purchase of the 100 foot ladder. The Chairman noted that it was not approved by our attorney, and he would not issue an opinion based on the information that was sent to him. Commissioners Spackmann and B. Bishop clarified that his opinion was that he would not approve it based on the information sent to him. Mr. B. Gibbins asked the Board if they were going to further look at ways of getting around the purchase of it or are you going to go on the committees recommendation of the 75 foot. Chairman Kugler explained that is something for the Board to decide and they are not going to do it tonight. Need to look at a lot of stuff, including the budget. B. Gibbins also noted that he was checking the website and tonight's meeting was not on the website; Secretary Petkus noted that she must have forgotten to put it on the website, although she did advertise it. She apologized and that she totally forgot, and asked Mr. Gibbins if he happens to see something like that in the future, to please call her.

Firefighter Roger Bechard asked where the truck committee derived upon Greenfield needing a ladder before Maple Avenue. It just seems to him that when they did the study 7-8 years ago, it was warranted that the purchase of the ladder truck would be at Maple Avenue's station. Now all of a sudden, Greenfield Center's going to get it.

Commissioner B. Bishop explained part of the thought process of the truck committee:

- Maple Avenue does already presently have an aerial device;
- It is going to take some time to build up the money to purchase Maple Avenue's truck, as there is not enough money in the Equipment Reserve right now;
- There is enough money in the Equipment Reserve right now to purchase the 75 foot stick for Greenfield;
- This would give us two aerial devices in the District, granted one is aging and is probably at the end of its career, but there would be a second one as a back up if anything did happen to that one while money was being built up;
- This list of repairs would be made to 293 and would hopefully be able to buy some life expectancy out of it so that the money could be saved up in order to purchase a new 100 foot aerial;
- Again, no one is saying that Maple Avenue shouldn't have the aerial device, because they actually have one and it is still working, and at the last workshop the Chief and A/C of Co #4 asked to have it put back into full service, which tells him that it is a pretty viable vehicle and is still able to report to any calls it needs to.
- May have to wait one more budget cycle, possibly two, to purchase depending on certain factors, and in that period of time there wouldn't be any back up aerial device.
- The original recommendations from the consultant report was at the minimum a 75 foot aerial device, which still fulfills that obligation of housing an aerial device.

Commissioner B. Bishop also noted that they had everything ready to go with two lease purchases, but that would require a mandatory referendum, and it was the feeling of many on the Board that bringing it before the voters would not fly again. All lease options were turned down

by our attorney as recently as yesterday, so we are now left with the option of paying cash for these ladder trucks. He also added, and Chairman Kugler reiterated, that this was the recommendation of the truck committee, which was not a unanimous decision, and in no way reflects the opinions of anybody on the Board, as the Board has not yet made a decision.

Mr. Bechard noted that his point was that if you order the truck today, it is going to take a year to get anyway, and you will already have next year's budget. He understands trying to save money to get a truck purchased for backup, but Wilton, South Glens Falls and Saratoga Springs, which as a brand new one, all have back ups. Seven years ago they were pushed back and had to wait a year because they didn't have the money and it just seems that every time that we go to purchase something we get pushed back. He understands the finances aren't there.

A/C Ellsworth asked what the feelings were of the rest of the Board, as they hadn't heard from all of the Board. Chairman Kugler noted that they were basically back to square one, and he himself wants to look at next year's budget, wants to see where they are going, economic times out there right now are not the greatest, costs are going up, fuel is going up. A/C Ellsworth also asked about getting the repairs done for Maple Avenue's truck, it looks like it may be a long process. Commissioner Robarge added that they are going to have to get a list and if it doesn't pass we are going to have to make it right so it does pass. Further discussion continued, including putting \$50,000.00 aside for aerial repairs, some of which had to be used for the engine repairs, which caught them off guard.

A/C G. Gibbins also noted in response to Roger Bechard, that they can have the ladder truck in nine months, although it depends on individual manufacturer. He also added that Greenfield has already gone two years past what they were promised to replace 262, which was always going to be replaced with a ladder truck for the Greenfield Fire District, not for Greenfield Center. Chairman Kugler noted that A/C Gibbins had stated in one of their meetings that if he had to sit for another year or two he did not have a problem with that; A/C Gibbins noted it was because they did not have the money to purchase two, and currently there is about \$728,000.00 in the reserve account and GFC's ladder can be purchased for \$625,000.00, which will not drain the reserve account. Chairmen Kugler noted they did not want to get below \$200,000.00. Commissioner Spackmann respectfully disagreed with the Chairman, noting he never recalled the Board ever discussing a safety net of \$200,000.00. Further discussion continued.

Commissioner Robarge asked for everyone's cooperation, as they we are all in this together and however this goes down, he would ask that everybody try to be supportive of the others, regardless of which truck is purchased. It is for the Greenfield Fire District and we are all trying to do the best we can, as is everybody.

A/C Ellsworth added that it was the goal of the truck committee as well, and there was a lot of discussion on that. There is no easy solution to this either way, and somewhere, somehow someone is not going to like it. The truck committee is in the middle of this and they did not like to sit down at the table either and have these discussions that have been going on for three months.

The Chairman asked the Chief and Captain Bullard if they had any comments; they had none.

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

Workshop was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary