

Board of Fire Commissioners

Greenfield Fire District
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The November 2011 Commissioners Meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at Company #3 by Chairman Richard Spackmann at 7:00 PM on November 14, 2011. The flag salute and moment of silence were recognized for departed members and to keep the Barss family in our thoughts and prayers.

Present: Commissioners Atwell, Chandler, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary Petkus, D/P B. Bishop, Deputy Treasurer V. Perkins. Excused: Commissioner Barss. See sign in sheet for others in attendance.

Chairman Spackmann introduced special guest Kirk Woodcock, Highway Superintendant from the Town of Wilton, who is here this evening to discuss snow plowing this upcoming winter season. Apologized to the Board, he is sure the budgets are already in, expected to have an answer long before now, but they just adopted their budget. He has lost \$2.3 million in his budget since 2009. Will have to also address both Wilton Fire Department and Wilton Emergency Squad as well on this same subject. It is a great honor, he is an Honorary member at Maple Avenue, he is here this evening to figure out how to accomplish what they have done in the past. Commissioner Spackmann noted that in a previous conversation, Mr. Woodcock had noted that he was not sure if he would be able to take care of the plowing; he needs to know if he can or cannot. Mr. Woodcock noted that, regarding the legal aspect, he believes he still can plow Maple Avenue as long as there is some discussion on finances. In speaking to the Comptroller, it was explained to him that the appropriate way is for the Highway Department to voucher the District, and somehow the funds would be transferred from the Fire District back into the Town of Wilton General Fund. Commissioner Spackmann confirmed that Mr. Woodcock is asking the District to fund the plowing for this season; he is willing and has the manpower to do it but the funding portion is not there. Mr. Woodcock noted he uses 5000 ton of salt per year and is in the hole for \$150,000 on salt alone, and currently there is no fuel in the fuel account and they cut his fuel account again. Commissioner Spackmann noted that his understanding of the law is that municipalities in the same taxing district are not allowed to pay for services to the other municipalities. Currently going through this with the Town of Greenfield regarding servicing our apparatus, and the District pays for materials only, not labor. Mr. Woodcock explained that his goal is not to leave Maple Avenue unplowed, but there are issues and other people are getting involved in this now. Mr. Woodcock noted that his operational budget for 2012 was decreased \$450-500 thousand. Salt/sand budget was cut as well as his equipment repair account, and he believes about another \$10,000 from his fuel account. This is the first year in his 26 years that he is going to be in red in his total budget. Money will come out of contingency or reserve but he has to get PO numbers, and this created obstacles to getting the materials that he needs. He would hope that some kind of arrangement can be made. Suggestion made to possible reimburse Wilton for the salt. Question also made to Mr. Woodcock what the dollar amount he would anticipate for the plowing to continue at Maple Avenue for this year; Mr. Woodcock noted he did not know the cost, but he would be able to do it cheaper than if an outside contractor were hired. He has been asked to keep the trucks longer, but that equipment repair account is being cut. Commissioner Spackmann noted that the next step seems to be to contact the District's attorney to find out what the District can or cannot

legally do; he will then contact Mr. Woodcock for further discussion. Commissioner Atwell suggested that maybe they need to talk to the Town Board about this. Commissioner Spackmann noted he had aridly spoken to Supervisor Johnson, who told him the operational budget was the same as last year. Mr. Woodcock noted that was not true, but he did not bring the budget with him. Commissioner Spackmann thanked Mr. Woodcock for attending the meeting.

RESOLUTION #238 TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 12, 2011 COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES AND NOVEMBER 9, 2011 RECORD OF NO MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Atwell

RESOLVED to approve the October 12, 2011 Commissioner Meeting Minutes and November 9, 2011 Record of No Meeting Minutes as written.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Spackmann asked for questions/comments regarding the abstract:

Commissioner Chandler questioned the following claims:

- 11758 NAPA Auto Parts; requested more detailed information. D/T Perkins noted there was nothing of significant dollar amount on the list.
- 11776: questioned what that is for. Captain Burwell noted it is the amount due from the District for the inspection machine as previously agreed upon.
- 11785: pump on 272. Noted there was also something on Abstract 9, claim #11645, a listing for a seal for \$130. Was this for a different seal? Lengthy discussion continued; \$520 to be held until clarification of bill on both abstracts.
- 11796: Questioned for which firehouse; it was noted the work was for Co #3.

Commissioner Atwell questioned the following claims:

- 11787: wireless phone bill. Reduced cell phone by 10; but the bill is still high. Brief discussion.
- 11791: KME bill to research Cascade system: Were never able to give us a name, wound up having Toby fix it. Brief discussion; question as to why KME is billing to do research on Cascade system. Bill to be held and Chief Lant to look into it.

RESOLUTION #239 TO PAY ABSTRACT #11, CLAIM #11733 THROUGH CLAIM #11815, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF \$520.00 FROM CLAIM #11785 AND \$153.00 FROM CLAIM #11791, FROM THE GENERAL FUND, TOTALING \$28,919.05.

A3410.1	\$7,824.77
A3410.2	564.72
A3410.4	19,902.42
A9030.8	627.14

Total: \$28,919.05

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to pay Abstract #11, claim #11733 through claim #11815, with the exception of \$520.00 from claim #11785 and \$153.00 from claim #11791, from the General Fund, totaling \$28,919.05.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence: Secretary Petkus

- Received and read a letter dated November 3, 2011 and submitted by Commissioner Jackie Atwell requesting his name be placed on the ballot for the Annual Commissioner election for the five year term beginning January 1, 2012.
- Received and read a letter dated November 9, 2011 and submitted by Chief John Lant requesting his name be placed on the ballot for the District Chief's election in December.
- Received and read a letter dated November 8, 2011 and submitted by District EMS Coordinator Tim Kemp requesting his name be considered for 2012 District EMS Coordinator. Letter to be held on file at District office for the Chief.
- Received and read a letter from Maryellen Gillis, Principal of Schoharie Elementary School, thanking everyone who assisted after Hurricane Irene devastated their community. Also requested an emblem patch as they are creating a display at the school. Patch approved by Board.

Purchasing: D/P B. Bishop

- Looked at this month's Nextel bill and it looks like there is an issue with the number of minutes being allocated. Will look into it further.
- Questioned the Board regarding their final decision on the fuel oil RFP. Received answers to questions from the Board by GA Bove and CS Pita. Discussion continued regarding emergency service, diesel fuel, lock in versus rack price.

RESOLUTION #240 AWARDING THE FINAL FUEL OIL BID TO G.A. BOVE FOR THE 2011- 2012 HEATING SEASON.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Chandler

RESOLVED to award the final fuel oil bid to G.A. Bove for the 2011- 2012 heating season.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Annual SCBA testing: MES had the best arrangement versus Tyler Fire; also can lock in from 1 – 3 years. Brief discussion, Board authorized D/P Bishop to lock in for 3 years and schedule annual testing. MES will also attempt to submit mask repairs to straps under warranty.

RESOLUTION #241 TO LOCK IN WITH MES FOR ANNUAL AIR PACK MAINTENANCE FOR 3 YEARS AT \$35.00 PER PACK.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Chandler

RESOLVED to lock in with MES for annual air pack maintenance for 3 years at \$35.00 per pack.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- SCBA masks: still have not received list from Co #4. Most firefighters have masks. A few people from Co #1, 2 and 3 still need masks. There are a number of people who currently have AV300 masks who are not very active, so he may have to swap out their masks with AV

2000's. Will keep a few AV3000's in stock in case the more active firefighters need a replacement while they are out for repair. Also FF N. Thurman had allergic reaction to cleaning solution in mask, need to purchase new mask. Brief discussion; Captain Bullard noted Co #4 may have a new, size small mask for her. Question arose as to why Co #4 would have masks as inventory is now centrally located. Commissioner Spackmann noted that although this may or may be true, if Captain Deuel does have masks in stock, it is a serious issue.

- Nozzle from Co #3 was sent out to Elkhart Brass in July, estimate was received for \$453.65 to fix, still waiting for Board for directive. D/P Bishop authorized to go ahead and have nozzle repaired.
- FF Parenteau had requested to purchase a uniform patch for his personal coat. Brief discussion; concern a bad precedent may be set. Request for patch denied.
- FF1 books: questioned if the Board made a decision regarding Co #2 firefighters Brooks and Philyaw purchasing books for FF1 without following correct procedure. Discussion continued; Board approved reimbursement for the price of the correct FF1 book researched by the Director of Purchasing. Secretary Petkus questioned if the books should come back to the District or remain the property of the firefighters. Brief discussion; firefighters allowed to keep the books. .

RESOLUTION #242 AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE FF1 BOOKS TO FIREFIGHTERS BROOKS AND PHILYAW AT THE PRICE FOUND BY THE DIRECTOR OF PURCHASING. TREASURER AUTHORIZED TO CUT CHECKS; MONEY TO COME OUT OF THE TRAINING ACCOUNT.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Atwell

RESOLVED to authorize the reimbursement of the FF1 books to firefighters Brooks and Philyaw at the price found by the Director of Purchasing. Treasurer authorized to cut checks; money to come out of the Training account.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Reminder that end of years requests are due today. Questioned if there is a deadline for line item requests. Brief discussion; deadline is December 1st for line item requests. D/B Bishop has received various requests from Co #2, 3 and 4.
- Spoke to Erin Maxon today regarding 281; HME will still cover a portion of the repairs so he will contact Frank and Sons tomorrow to get the truck in.
- Has recently received requests from firefighters, reminded the officers again that he would prefer to receive the requests from the officers directly rather than the individual firefighters so he can confirm that it is an actual legitimate request and not just somebody who just wants some stuff. A quick phone message or email is fine.
- Lt. Ramsey has approached him last meeting in reference to getting a plaque for Mike Goodspeed. He has helped out with paint and striping on the rehab bus. Commissioner Atwell noted he also supplied the paint for the fire police van.

RESOLUTION #243 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OR PURCHASING TO SPEND UP TO \$100 ON A PLAQUE FOR MIKE GOODSPEED.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Atwell

RESOLVED to authorize the Director or Purchasing to spend up to \$100 on a plaque for Mike Goodspeed.

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: None.

Requests for Change in Membership:

Greenfield Center Company #1: None.

Porter Corners Company #2: None.

Middle Grove Company #3: Nick Swift, change from 16/17 year old to active member.

Maple Avenue Company #4: None.

RESOLUTION #244 TO APPROVE ABOVE CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Atwell

RESOLVED to approve above change in membership.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Grants:

- Nothing.

Report of the Chief: John Lant:

- Thanked the Board for the flowers for his mother's funeral. The department did a heck of job as well.
- All the pumps are done. 282 did not pass. 273 and 283 should be done tomorrow.
- Fire Prevention went well. Last week was evacuation drill at Maple Avenue elementary.
- Hazmat course on Tuesday and Wednesday should be enough, at the next level they would be calling the city in anyway.
- Will start using the new radio system, low band will be for back up.
- Two serious jaws calls in the last month, one was a hybrid. Very happy with both calls, the money the Board gives the department for training does pay off.
- Officers would like to take the Hazmat money from this year and roll it over to start purchasing new meters next year. Commissioner Spackmann noted there was \$3500 left and it could be rolled into the Equipment Reserve for next year.
- Officers agreed that any money in the Rescue account be used for the tool for the new ER at Maple Avenue.
- Two weeks ago he received a call from a foreman at Wilton Highway that they were not going to be plowing Maple Avenue, Wilton and the ambulance Corp. The Town bought a truck with a plow on it for Wilton Emergency Corp, not sure why they are plowing it anyway. He was given \$30,000.00 and a position back. He then called Walt Barss who said he would help us out plowing Maple Avenue and the Chief would just as soon part company with the Town of Wilton. Before the Board makes a decision, maybe they should speak to Walt about it. Commissioner Chandler noted he would call Walt tomorrow.
- Reported on various company/department training for the past month, including hybrid and jaws training, and live burn at the training center, evacuation drill at Dorothy Nolan.

Reports from Companies:

Company #1 – D/C Kenyon:

- Got together today at Greenfield Elementary teaching responsibility, it is a really good program. They also really appreciated the recent fire prevention and was well accepted by the new Principal.

Company #2 – A/C Middlebrook:

- Reader on the door at the top of the stairs to downstairs that was fixed is still buzzing.

Company #3 – D/C Ellsworth:

- Suggested if meetings have to be switched around to maybe contact the Company Presidents; the Boy Scouts were supposed to meet this evening and they had to switch things around.

Company #4 – Captain Bullard:

- Nothing this evening.

Report of District EMS Coordinator – Tim Kemp:

- Not present.

Planning Board:

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

- Quiet.

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

- Quiet.

Reports of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Atwell:

- Questioned Captain Bullard on how the testing of the thermal imaging cameras is coming along. Captain Bullard noted he hopes to have the final report ready by the workshop.
- Questioned the progress on Co #3 roof project. Commissioner Chandler noted he would give an update during his report.
- Co #1 roof had leaked previously. Secretary Petkus explained what had happened, and ultimately nothing has been done. Commissioner Atwell noted it may have something to do with a screw missing, and it only leaked when it snowed, but not when it rains. To keep an eye on it.
- Questioned the latest data entry meeting. Secretary Petkus noted she thought it went very well, some ongoing problems have been ironed out. The Chief received a letter today from the State about some problems with some previously sent data that she will be dealing with. Had requested they get October entered sooner than the deadline, which they did so she could finalize active status.
- Asked for update on the 65th anniversary banquet. D/P Bishop noted it is frustrating, the first scheduled committee meeting had only 3 people total. The two things that he needed the committee members to do at this point are to make sure their rosters are updated and have the correct information to avoid the problems that occurred last year when people complained they never got the emails or invitations. He had also hoped to do some kind of program with advertisements from the community. Each company has been sent packets for that, and only the Chief and FF Diane Czechowicz have acted on it. He has also sent information to those members for the GCBA. Secretary Petkus noted Nancy Waite had given her an updated roster and the changes have been already made in Firetracker. D/P Bishop also noted Co #3 is already updated as well.

- CO detectors: D/P Bishop noted the Board decided to wait until the end of the year to see what was left in fire prevention and to purchase them out of that left over money.
- Questioned the progress of the 2nd phone line at the District office: D/P Bishop noted he spend a lot of time today researching it. \$39 to add a 2nd line or \$28.80 per month for caller ID and call waiting. If the Board decides to go with the second line, 2 additional jacks will need to be installed as well as 2 new phones at about \$100 each. While on the phone with AT&T, they looked at the current service and found another plan that reduced the cost, saving the District about \$78 per month. Discussion continued; 2nd line to be added, Tech II to run the lines.
- Also questioned the phone line issue at Co #1. D/P Bishop noted it is not a line issue but a phone issue. The phones themselves are starting to fail; he can look for refurbished phones if necessary.

Commissioner Chandler:

- Co #3 roof: As of last week the material is still at the factory and ready to be shipped any time it is wanted. Safer at the factory. They were supposed to get together this week to finalize the contract. Munter is looking to start sometime in December, it is not at winter rates. There had been a question regarding the mounting of the siren; it will be mounted with clips, not bolted through the roof. The number of clips needed is still to be determined and is inclusive of the price. Handed out to the Board a copy of a typical hold harmless agreement. Would like the Board to read it and discuss it at the workshop, possibly incorporate it into all of our contracts. Added to November workshop agenda. Also noted that regarding maintenance of all the firehouse roofs, Munter is putting a package together with a rate per roof every couple of years going up on the roofs, tweaking screws, fixing anything broken or cracked.

Commissioner Spackmann:

- Fire prevention at Dorothy Nolan went very well. Thanked Brian Bishop for coming down to help out. Everybody seemed to have fun, hopefully next year they will be able to have it at the firehouse instead of at the gymnasium.

Commissioner Waite:

- Would like to talk about the bailout window at the workshop; added to the November workshop agenda.

Special Topics of Discussion:

- By-law amendments: Concern reading superseding the current by-laws when the new by-laws have no stipulations for requirements for each office. Officer qualifications to be made into a District Policy. Secretary Petkus suggested for the future to avoid any confusion, having all by-laws changes that are made throughout the year become effective January 1st of the following year. Brief discussion; tabled for adoption at the November workshop.
- Officer requirements: Lengthy discussion continued regarding current officer requirements, with highlights including:
 - Question as to the necessity for A/C, D/C or Chief to have Hazmat Operations. Arguments made by several people both for and against this requirement.
 - ISC 800 being a realistic requirement. Again, arguments made both for and against this requirement.
 - Keeping the requirements for this election cycle which may preclude some firefighters from running for office, and then 2 months later declaring the requirements do not make sense and changing them.

- Focusing more on in house training, and making sure it is the right kind of training.
- Important that decision be made this evening as to the officer requirements prior to going into election season.
- Lot of requirements for Captain, maybe some should be moved to Lieutenant requirements.
- Question of logic regarding enforcing rules that are known not to be good rules or do not make sense.
- Concern that the discussion has a lot to do with who currently has or does not have the required courses. It was noted these were the qualifications back in January and the Board made it very clear to all the officers that these are the qualifications and they needed to be completed or they will not be an officer in 2012; the Board then went through great lengths to make these courses available. Some members took what the Board said to heart and hustled to get the courses needed. Course requirements have been in effect for three years. Commissioner Spackmann respectfully disagreed.
- Question as to what is the definition of “active status”; it was noted there is a formula in the new by-laws that determines active status, totaling 50 points.
- Question as to exactly what the Hazmat class being offered tomorrow evening is; Chief Lant noted the instructor is going to mix it up.
- Chief Lant noted that maybe we need to start complaining more at County Advisory Board meetings, every year he sends in his list with Hazmat on it, and nothing ever seems to be in this part of the County.
- Question as to whether or not Live Burn B is really necessary.
- Question that if whatever changes are made tonight, will that be it, and if a current officer does not have the necessary requirements, they cannot be an officer next year.
- Question as to the definition of course “equivalents”; clarification that a course may have changed names i.e.; Essentials is now called Firefighter 1.
- Clarification that there are 3 different levels to Hazmat 1st Responder; Awareness, Operations, Technician. Captain Burwell noted that NYS has a home rule that the highest ranking Chief on scene stays in command of a Hazmat incident whether or not the Hazmat team shows up, and the District does have Operations level stuff.
- Discussion that part of the Firefighter 1 curriculum also includes Hazmat Operations training.

Commissioner Spackmann noted that he personally sees problems with some of the requirements, but if the decision is made this evening to leave the requirements as is, come January he will not change his vote to approve officers; if you do not have the requirements or equivalents, he will not bend. Based on the above lengthy discussion between the Board, officers and members present, decision is made to leave requirements as they currently stand.

- Monolith Solar: D/P Bishop noted that in talking with Monolith, the District is apparently not eligible for the grant if we do it on our own, it would only be if we did it through Monolith and we would be eligible for the 30% savings. Added to workshop agenda for further discussion.
- D/C Ellsworth questioned again which Hazmat course was scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday and does it fulfill the requirements? Commissioner Spackmann noted that he as Commissioner will not accept it as both. Brief discussion continued; Chief Lant noted he would call the instructor tomorrow and find out. Commissioner Spackmann questioned if the Board and officers are aware that if it happens that some companies do not have any Chiefs or Captains because of the requirements, it means the other officers of the District are going to have to help out and they are going to be a lot busier than this year. D/C Ellsworth noted that we are waiting until the night before to decide the name of the

course. Chief Lant noted he thought it was going to be more of operations. Captain Bullard felt tomorrow's course should be a hybrid and should be accepted, but if it is not, and if companies now do not have Assistant Chiefs, the Captains will be running the companies, and they are not required to have Operations so what are we actually gaining? D/P Bishop noted that the Captains would not be running the companies, Assistant Chiefs would be assigned to those companies.

- It was noted that Operations is 24 hours and Awareness is 16 hours, and the District's upcoming course is a total of 6 hours, which means that what is being said is that NYS has 32 hours of fluff.

RESOLUTION #245 TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.

MOTION: Waite

SECOND: Chandler

RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chandler with a second from Commissioner Waite to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary