

Board of Fire Commissioners

Greenfield Fire District
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The Future Plan Committee Meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at Company #1 by Commissioner Richard Spackmann at 7:03 PM on September 16, 2010. The flag salute and a moment of silence were recognized for departed members.

Present were:

Commissioners: Kugler, Spackmann, Waite; Secretary J. Petkus.

Chief Officers: Chief J. Lant, D/C J. King, A/C E. Petkus.

Absent: Commissioners B. Chouinard and Robarge; D/C's G. Gibbins and Davis.

Please see sign in sheet for others in attendance.

RESOLUTION #251 APPOINTING COMMISSIONER SPACKMANN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FUTURE PLAN COMMITTEE.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Kugler

RESOLVED to appoint Commissioner Spackmann as Chairman of the Future Plan Committee.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #252 TO APPOINT THE FUTURE PLAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS: CHIEF JOHN LANT, D/C JOHN KING, A/C ED PETKUS; COMMISSIONERS B. CHOUINARD, KUGLER, ROBARGE, SPACKMANN AND WAITE; D/C GARY GIBBINS AND D/C JON DAVIS.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to appoint the Future Plan Committee members as follows: Chief John Lant, D/C John King, A/C Ed Petkus; Commissioners B. Chouinard, Kugler, Robarge, Spackmann and Waite; D/C Gary Gibbins and D/C Jon Davis.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Spackmann explained the ground rules as follows:

- Do not interrupt while someone else is talking
- Respect each other's opinions
- Silence all cell phones and pagers.

He noted his personal goal is to get everything out in the open, move this District into the future, and come to a consensus as a committee, as that is what is going to guide this District for the next 10-15 years. He does not want to hear about stuff that was brought up 10 or 20 years ago, he would like to put this to bed once and for all. It is time to figure out where we are going, put it down in writing, and let's get there.

Chairman Spackmann noted that there are currently 3 meetings scheduled, and suggested

adding a 4th, which will be determined. Each meeting will focus on addressing a specific topic; tonight's topic for discussion will be on District apparatus. The meeting on Monday October 18th at the Middle Grove firehouse will focus on facilities, and the meeting on Thursday November 18th will be held at the Maple Avenue firehouse and focus on miscellaneous topics that do not fall under apparatus or facilities. The 4th meeting that will be scheduled he would like to see as a conclusion with possibly some type of public presentation and formal adoption of what it is the committee has put together.

Discussion turned to the district apparatus, concerns regarding maintenance costs, the size of the fleet, and possible consolidation of trucks.

Topics discussed throughout the meeting included:

- Get rid of 292 and 295 and combine into one engine rescue vehicle
- Get rid of 282 and 283 and combine into a 3000 gallon ETA
- Survey the existing apparatus and possibly keep the best mechanically sound pumper as a District spare, currently 282.
- Keep up program with servicing and mandates, including:
 - Pump testing
 - Hose testing
- Sell trucks that are not being used on a regular basis
 - Cost of maintaining trucks that are not used regularly
 - Begin selling certain apparatus sooner rather than later
- Standardization of trucks with one or two manufacturers
 - Possible lower maintenance costs
 - Concern that standardization will allow manufacturer to charge anything they want, no competitive edge
 - Choose a good company with good service and good quality
- Preventive maintenance plan
- New apparatus needs to be built user friendly
 - Safety concerns
 - Standardization of trucks – stick to similar pumpers between companies, similar compartments housing similar equipment for familiarity
- Different kinds of pumps
 - Safety issues
 - Rear, side or top mounts
 - Should standardize pumps within the District
- Increased cost up front to streamline apparatus, but saves money in the long run with decreased size of fleet
- Necessity to do our “homework” right.

Brief discussion regarding several members of this committee; Commissioner Spackmann noted the point of this committee is to put stuff to rest once and for all and move ahead, and if people are not going to attend, then they can't be part of the solution.

Commissioner Spackmann noted that it has been brought up that how can the District say that we are trying to be leaner and more efficient, but we are still increasing the apparatus fleet by the acquisition of the rehab bus and fire police van. He further noted that it is a valid question, but a little wayward because you cannot put a rehabilitation bus and fire police van, both of which were donated, in the same category for example, as a 3000 gallon tanker. A/C E. Petkus commented that there are requirements placed on us by the federal government, and we are required as of January 1st to have a rehab SOG in effect, and we have to provide shelter, heat, cooling and water for the firefighters at the fire scenes. A minimal amount of money is being put

into the rehab bus, and members will be donating their time to do the work needed on this required piece of equipment. The same goes for the fire police; they are a dedicated group of senior firefighters who are out on the road performing tasks. Their vests blend in with the new safety equipment on the backs of the fire trucks, and now they cannot be seen. Providing them with a vehicle will give them a safety buffer zone for the fire police directing traffic, as well as providing them with all the equipment that will be carried in this van and that there will be less personal vehicles on the scene as they will be responding in the van.

Discussion turned to future apparatus purchases and the best expenditure of funds. Commissioner Spackmann noted there has been some talk about Greenfield Center getting the next truck and arguments for and against whether or not they should be next. Would like to discuss this and come to an agreement amongst the committee as to what is going to happen and put that into the record. Commissioner Kugler noted that we should look at what apparatus is needed now, and that should come from the officers as to what is needed in the district and the time element as to when that is needed. Commissioner Waite noted that a 3000 gallon tanker is a good idea, they were looking at a ladder, but what we are missing most of the time is water. More discussion continued including purchasing ETA's and an engine rescue, whether or not to purchase all at the same time or over a period of time, and the issue that has happened with water. The committee decided to purchase apparatus over a period of time as follows:

- Co #1: purchase 3000 gallon tanker
- Co #4: purchase Engine Rescue
- Co #3: purchase 3000 gallon tanker

Commissioner Kugler noted that more needs to be decided regarding standardization before the District starts purchasing apparatus. A/C E. Petkus suggested calling different truck representatives, have them come up with a piece of apparatus to show the committee what they offer. It is important to do our homework first, and buy quality. Commissioner Spackmann noted that it seems that everyone agrees regarding standardization, although we do not know quite what and how we are going to do that just yet, but the first part would be manufacturer. He also noted, that as a Commissioner and committee member, he feels that this decision really needs to be made before Co #1 is given the green light. Suggestion was made to call surrounding Districts that have recently purchased new apparatus and speak to them about what they liked and didn't like, do some research on different manufacturers and have several come up and see what they have to offer. Concern noted about locking into just one company, possibly keep two for a better combination. Commissioner Spackmann noted that it seems the issue of standardization is really about quality, and maybe we just need to spec accordingly. Chief Lant noted we have always received great service from Garrison and KME. The importance of a good preventive maintenance program was again noted.

Commissioner Spackmann pointed out that the reason ISO rating improvement is on the list is because apparatus purchases ultimately affect the ISO rating. He also noted that there is a meeting next Monday between an ISO representative, the Chief, Commissioner Kugler and several other members of the Fire District to attempt to decrease our ISO rating. Chief Lant noted they have not been here since 1994 and we will probably learn a lot of things.

Commissioner Spackmann then commented on an idea brought up by several people recently to establish a special reserve account for the replacement of EL-293. Should the District be more proactive by putting money aside each year, so that in 20 years there is money to replace the ladder truck? Commissioner Spackmann polled all members of the committee and all unanimously agreed it needs to be done. Discussion continued as to when to go out to public referendum for the reserve fund; Commissioner Kugler noted he did not think it is a good idea to do this at the Commissioners election in December. Secretary Petkus to speak to Bill Young regarding proper procedure. It was also noted that the public needs to be educated on this prior to the referendum; George Habig, resident, noted that the public could be educated via the

newsletter. Commissioner Spackmann noted the newsletter comes out only twice a year, and it would be up to the committee to decide if they wanted to wait until after the spring newsletter to go to a vote, although at this point money would not be put into that reserve account until the 2012 budget.

Commissioner Spackmann then asked for questions/comments from the committee members and the public. D/C King noted that one of the things talked about is preventive maintenance, and even though we have preventive maintenance it is not a cure all, there will still be unforeseen things that happen.

Commissioner Spackmann noted the next Future Plan Committee meeting will be held on Monday October 18th at 7 PM at the Middle Grove firehouse. This meeting will focus on District facilities.

George Habig, resident, commented that there are 3 meetings scheduled, is there going to be some sort of follow up next year? Commissioner Spackmann noted that what he would like to see as a result of this whole process is as follows:

- Create a plan that summarizes everything discussed over the course of these meetings;
- Agreement amongst the committee members as to what is going to happen, including timeframe;
- Formally adopt the plan by the Board;
- This will give an outline for the next 5 or 10 years as to what the District strives to achieve, and he would hope we do not deviate from that unless the situation warrants it.

Commissioner Spackmann also noted that there are 2 separate issues; we always need to look at how we can do things better, but we also need a road map or plan on how to achieve that, and his hope is this is what is produced from these meetings.

Commissioner Waite asked if we are going to start looking at which trucks to get rid of; if we don't use them, we don't need them and we are paying to maintain them. Brief discussion continued; including selling 262 and 292. It was decided to start marketing 262 for sale. Commissioner Kugler will try to make some contacts.

Motion made by Commissioner Kugler with a second from Commissioner Waite to dispense with the reading of the minutes. All in favor.

Motion made by Commissioner Kugler with a second from Commissioner Waite to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary