

Board of Fire Commissioners

Greenfield Fire District
P.O. Box 103
Greenfield Center, NY 12833
(518) 893-0723
Fax: (518)893-7006

The September 2010 meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at Company #1 by Chairman Don Kugler at 7:01 PM on September 8, 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.

RESOLUTION #236 TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:02 PM REGARDING POTENTIAL LITIGATION.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Robarge

RESOLVED to go into executive session at 7:02 PM regarding potential litigation.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #237 TO RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:52 PM.

MOTION: Kugler

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to reconvene from executive session at 7:52 PM.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION #238 TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2010 COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: B. Chouinard

RESOLVED to approve the August 11, 2010 Commissioner Meeting Minutes.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kugler asked for questions/comments regarding the abstract:

RESOLUTION #239 TO PAY CLAIM #10508 THROUGH CLAIM #10557, TOTALING \$29,073.29.

A3410.1	\$ 4,421.93
A3410.2	5,312.41
A3410.4	18,986.65
<u>A9030.8</u>	<u>352.30</u>

Total \$29,073.29

MOTION: B. Chouinard

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED: to pay Claim #10508 through Claim #10557, totaling \$29,073.29.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Robarge questioned approving payment of the Building Reserve Fund; Secretary Petkus noted it will be done at tomorrow night's special meeting.

Correspondence: Secretary J. Petkus

- Received and read a letter dated August 24, 2010 from the Greenfield Historical Society thanking the fire police for parking and traffic control at the Caboose Open House on 8/14.
- Reminder that the Primary Election at Co #1, 2 and 3 is next week. Running into a small problem regarding delivery and pick up of the new machines, will keep everyone posted on it.

Purchasing: P/A J. Chouinard

- Has some items in the other room from Co #2 and Co #4 to pick up.

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: Tahlyn Fisher, change from 16/17 y/o to active member

Porter Corners Company #2: None.

Middle Grove Company #3: M. Kohl, resignation due to going away to college.

Maple Avenue Company #4: M. Bellantoni, J. Butler, J. Jones and B. Jordan: terminations due to not being active; Mike Smith, change to life-inactive, which Chief Lant approved with regret.

RESOLUTION #240 TO ACCEPT ABOVE CHANGES AND NEW MEMBERS.

MOTION: B. Chouinard

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to accept above changes and new members.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Grants:

- No update.

Report of the Chief: John Lant

- Training: recapped various company drills/training for the past month.
- Truck repairs:
 - 291 out of service, turbo went, should be done tomorrow
 - Ladder truck had a leak on the hydraulics, KME working on it
 - Pumps serviced on 291, 292 and 283; 283 also had some mounting done
 - 261: swing down ladder repaired
 - 263: batteries changed

- 264 had a gas leak
- Tarps completed except for 264.
- No longer Saratoga County Car 4.
- Blue light lens law back in effect. Brief discussion; Chief to contact Jill to coordinate.
- All new, or off brand, air bottles out of service immediately until situation resolved. Also recommends that the Board make a resolution to buy only SCOTT bottles in the future.
- Regarding the new rehab law, a bus was donated by ARC for rehab. There are 3-4 guys who want to work on the bus. Brief discussion regarding modifications, donations and putting names on the bus as recognition to those who donated, and how it will be used. Need insurance on it and may need a generator for it.
- Have 8 people for uniforms; Commissioner B. Chouinard handling it.
- Had a meeting with the truck committee; they all agreed Co #1 should get a new ETA. Commissioner Spackmann noted this is exactly what the Future Plan Committee is all about and he does not want to preempt that motion, unless they just want to stop the Future Plan Committee altogether. Brief discussion; it was noted that the truck committee was supposed to have 2 Commissioners on it as well, which it does not. Commissioners Kugler and Waite to be on truck committee. Commissioner Spackmann questioned the purpose of the Future Plan committee, or are we just going to start buying trucks and not talk about the future of the District, of which the fleet is a major component? More discussion continued.
- Called today about the ladder testing, they will get back to him.
- Hose testing will be Saturday and Sunday, starting at Co #3 at 8 AM. It was noted the Town wide Garage Sale was the same weekend.
- Radio system is coming to completion. Can only get 1 portable per truck and 1 mobile. Suggested the Board write a letter to Supervisors Johnson and Rowland explaining that we are the largest and busiest department in the County. Commissioner Spackmann to coordinate with the Secretary and write letter.
- Has been going to Co #2 for quite a bit, pretty impressed, the place is always clean and picked up, not knocking the Chiefs there but the Captains and Lieutenants really seem to be taking charge doing training, etc. Any tools you can give them would be a great help, and the smart board would be a big help. Brief discussion; Chief Lant noted there were some hard feelings last month. P/A J. Chouinard to schedule a site visit, FF B. Bishop noted that the rep could get in touch with him and he would meet with her. Commissioner Kugler noted if it could be coordinated between now and the workshop, they could possibly make a decision then. Commissioner Spackmann felt they were overlooking something pretty major, which is the behavior of a Deputy Chief during that whole fiasco. He gives the Chief credit for trying to be the better man and trying to get equipment for your troops, but he does not recall the Commissioners ever questioning whether or not a smart board would be beneficial; that was not the issue. Even now as we are starting to look into it, there has been nothing, or an apology from the Deputy Chief for his behavior on that day. Deputy Chief Davis apologized and explained that it was a bad day, a hot day, he had a lot going on, and to him he felt like he was against the whole idea. He also noted that he is giving up the Deputy Chief spot as he has too much on his plate, his business is growing and his wife is pregnant again. Congratulations were offered to D/C Davis on the upcoming addition to his family. Commissioner Spackmann noted, just to be clear, the issue was not the smart board request, but rather the presentation.

Reports from Companies:

Company #1 – Captain Coffey:

- Nothing to report.

Company #2 – D/C Jon Davis:

- FF S. Burwell took care of the fire prevention; needs the PO signed.
- Has not had much information from the Fire Advisory Board, but there is going to be a meeting and felt the Commissioners, Chief and Deputy Chiefs should go to this, regarding the radio system on 9/29/10 at the Hyatt off exit 12 of the Northway at 7 PM. He also noted the testing for the new radio system is going to start this month. He spoke briefly to Supervisor Rowland today, who is trying to find out how many radios this District is going to get. Brief discussion continued including Edinburg's closed radio system, getting our own antenna; D/C Davis noted Pittsfield Communications is going to be the vendor and they will be present at this meeting.

Company #3 – D/C Jay Ellsworth:

- Asked about the pipe order; Commissioner B. Chouinard noted he would call them tomorrow. D/C Ellsworth noted if the pipe is in, could he please let Commissioner Kugler know as he will be picking it up with his trailer.
- Received 2 estimates for the body work on 281: KME is about \$10,500.00 and Frank & Sons is about \$4,500.00. The Treasurer will be emailing it out to HME and wait to see what they say.

Company #4 – D/C John King:

- Nothing to report.

Report of District EMS Coordinator: Justin Burwell

- Handed out to the Board an Exposure Control Plan for the District. Commissioner Spackmann noted he looked through it and it looked pretty comprehensive; requested he email it to Secretary Petkus, who will forward it to the Chief and Deputy Chiefs for review.
- Has 2 PO's that he would like approved; one is for defibrillator batteries as he had 3 go bad in the past month, which he requested be OEM batteries to avoid any problems, and the other PO is for general supplies.

Planning Board:

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

- Not present.

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

- Wilton firehouse is supposed to go out to bid shortly, with building to begin in the spring.
- Phase III of The Paddocks to start soon.

Reports of the Commissioners:

Commissioner B. Chouinard:

- Asked if the Board had a chance to look at the HVAC report. Also noted that he emailed Ms. Palmatier to get an estimate of how much it would cost for her to oversee the bidding and the project. Tabled for discussion at the workshop.

Commissioner Waite:

- Questioned why the bills for Co #2 project are not being paid tonight. Commissioner Spackmann noted that why this became practice to pay them at the special meeting, is because there were a lot of questions surrounding bills from the get go, and it would take a lot of time to go through the bills, so the Board decided to pay them at the special meetings. Commissioner Waite noted that the Board could okay these bills and there is no sense of having the meeting. Commissioner Robarge asked what other bills are expected from CT

Male as far as services are concerned; Commissioner Waite noted that should be it. Treasurer J. Bishop noted that she did not think so as they did all the bid work and other things, and the current bills only takes them to the middle of August. Firefighter B. Bishop asked for a rough estimate on what was spent on CT Male to date. Lengthy discussion continued; FF B. Bishop noted he has an issue with, and that it seems like bad practice, having a separate meeting discussing payment of bills other than regular meetings because the regular meeting was set for bills to be paid. Commissioner Robarge questioned what else was going to be discussed at tomorrow night's meeting; Commissioner Waite noted he had nothing on his agenda. Commissioner Spackmann noted that the reason it got moved was by a lot of feedback from others because discussions about this project were not going well and it took an hour off the regular agenda to get stuff done. Commissioner Robarge questioned the Treasurer and Commissioner Waite on what the services were for the \$5000.00; Treasurer J. Bishop noted that we have paid \$33,652.47 for this phase of the project and it looks like there is another \$12,000.00 outstanding before this is complete on their billing phase. Commissioner Spackmann noted this is the point he is trying to make; this project has been so detailed and he has not gotten the impression it has been organized correctly, and that is why we have separate meetings to talk about this, this could go on for another ½ hour. Commissioner Robarge asked if there was anything with the Clerk of the Works; Commissioner Waite noted he has not heard anything. He called Chris, who was going to check with his boss and he has not gotten back to him yet. Tonight's bill was for \$5405.00. Commissioner Kugler thought that this needs to be gone over tomorrow night. Commissioner Waite noted that Complete Construction put a vent at Co #2 because there were birds in the air vent and that is another \$100 bill. Treasurer J. Bishop noted that it was not Complete Construction, it was Phil Putnam. Commissioner Robarge noted that he would just as soon handle all this tonight. Commissioner Waite noted that it is just a \$5000.00 bill and he does not know what they are arguing about. Commissioner Spackmann noted there is arguing because we are concerned CT Male has cost copious amounts of money. More discussion continued regarding who is signing change orders. Commissioner Robarge commented that we have no idea what's going on from soup to nuts on this whole thing; Commissioner Spackmann noted they should be talking to Commissioner Waite and A/C Middlebrook, and the issue is not necessarily the amount but rather the oversight of it. Commissioner Robarge demanded putting a stop to this project and have a meeting with CT Male and he wants some answers before he will approve moving forward with this whole project. He wants CT Male to sit down with them and go through every single bill and show where the change orders were signed and if not we will hold them to their original price. We have no clue as to what is going on, we get these bills and just keep paying them. More discussion continued, including the process for which bills have been paid at the last few special meetings regarding Co #2, rumors that changes were made on the design at the last meeting, signage being changed. Commissioner B. Chouinard noted that the only question that came up was what type of fabric was being used around the stone. Commissioner Spackmann noted that at the meeting two months ago, they went through each bill at the meeting, and that's what tomorrow's meeting is all about. Treasurer J. Bishop went through the current bill at length. Commissioner Spackmann commented that the fifty something thousand was the original quote, and upon recommendation, the Board approved this four or five months ago, and we should not be shocked; he is shocked by the lack of oversight and that directly speaks to Commissioner Waite and A/C Middlebrook as they are in charge of this project. It was asked if copies of everything were going to A/C Middlebrook, he noted he has not gotten anything. Commissioner Spackmann noted that if there are things they need to get they need to work it out. Secretary Petkus noted that anything she has gotten from CT Male has gone to Commissioner Waite; Commissioner Waite noted he has not had a chance to look at anything in the last few weeks. FF Brian Bishop suggested that there should be one focal

person in charge, rather than having 2 people in charge of the project because there is a clear lack of communication overall. Commissioner Spackmann noted that one thing that is being over looked is that the lack of oversight does not mean that money is being unnecessarily spent or we are throwing money away; it just means that we need to know why and for what it is being spent. FF B. Bishop commented that the Board is ultimately the one that needs to step up and stop the bleeding, and if Commissioner Waite is not able to do it, the Board needs to find somebody who is going to do it. Commissioner Robarge agreed and noted the whole thing needs to come to a stop and we need to regroup. Discussion continued regarding hiring a Clerk of the Works; Commissioner Robarge to call Paul Granger. Secretary Petkus clarified that no changes were made at the last meeting, the peaks were already there, all that was asked was how big were the peaks because there was concern that it wasn't going to split the snow or something like that, and the other thing was that Mike Chandler did not like the fabric that was described by the Architect. It was decided that the meeting tomorrow night will be held as scheduled.

Commissioner Robarge:

RESOLUTION #241 TO GIVE AMANDA MACWHINNIE PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE BASIC EMT COURSE AT MONTOUR FALLS.

MOTION: Robarge

SECOND: Spackmann

RESOLVED to give Amanda MacWhinnie permission to attend the basic EMT course at Montour Falls.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Questioned the mileage being submitted by A/C Bogardus, noting it seems to be quite high. Chief Lant noted he runs all the EMS calls.
- Asked if the Chief got new tires on the Chief's vehicle and what was done with the old tires? Chief Lant noted he did get the new ones and the others are in the garage. More discussion continued.

Commissioner Spackmann:

- Would like to send FF Roxbury a card or something; Secretary Petkus noted she already sent him a card. A/C Middlebrook noted is getting out and around now.

RESOLUTION #242 GIVING THE SECRETARY PERMISSION TO SEND A FRUIT BASKET TO FIREFIGHTER ROBERT ROXBURY.

MOTION: Spackmann

SECOND: Waite

RESOLVED to give the Secretary permission to send a fruit basket to Firefighter Robert Roxbury.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- Asked D/C Ellsworth to speak to him after the meeting.

Commissioner Kugler:

- Nothing.

Special Topics/New Business:

- By-law committee update: tabled to the September workshop.
- EMS training: recommendation from the officers for 2011: Chief Lant noted that the officers

approved, he thinks it is important to have proper records. Commissioner Spackmann noted he would speak to Mr. Felts tonight and have him forward a digital copy to him to forward to the rest of the Board to review. Tabled to the workshop.

- Streamlining meeting nights: Commissioner Robarge noted he is all for it. Chief Lant felt they should and get these meetings over with. Co #3 was all for it to change it to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. It was noted that the 1st Wednesday would be the officers meeting, the 2nd Wednesday the Commissioners meeting, the 3rd Wednesday Company meetings and the 4th Wednesday the Commissioner workshops. D/C Davis commented that he did not think it would go over too well at Co #2; Commissioner Spackmann commented that he respects the perception, but he just doesn't understand what the issue is. They will bring it to the membership again at Monday night's meeting. Captain Coffey noted that regarding Co #1 it went down exactly like he was going to tell the Board; certain people weren't going to like it. Commissioner Spackmann asked what the issue is with it; Captain Coffey noted that the boy scouts have meeting nights here, the Board has meetings, and they've been doing it for 40 years. Commissioner B. Chouinard noted that the Boy Scout may have to work around us and do they have their meetings on Wednesdays? Secretary Petkus noted the Boy Scouts are normally here on Thursdays. Tabled to September workshop.
- Treasurer J. Bishop asked to have the Board approve several bills:
 - MWH Design for the second half payment of the newsletter: \$1764.39
 - VISA for the time Union Ad: \$338.40

RESOLUTION #243 TO APPROVE THE ABOVE LISTED BILLS PRESENTED BY THE TREASURER.

MOTION: Robarge

SECOND: B. Chouinard

RESOLVED to approve the above listed bills presented by the Treasurer.

VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

- FF B. Bishop asked if the Board was shoring up accountability regarding the SCBA bottles, is there an inventory, do we know where they are, and who has what, when they are out of hydro? Commented that the Board should be able to budget next year exactly how many bottles are needed. D/C Davis noted that we have a system capable of filling these bottles, and there should only be 1 spare bottle per pack. After he takes those 13 out of service he will probably still have 7 spare bottles, he does not need any more. Commissioner Spackmann noted he had previously brought up about streamlining SCBA bottles and he was laughed out of the room. Commissioner B. Chouinard also noted that if they get the equipment necessary for the Purchasing agent, there probably would not be a lot of these problems and that has been slacked on for the last couple of years. Commissioner Spackmann noted that the issue has been the budget and you can't have money put aside for things and not ask where it is going to come from. More discussion continued, including an inventory control system, correct implementation of that system, district inventory rather than company inventory, the upfront costs.
- George Habig, resident, commented that the newsletter was very nice, and only to "spend less, exercise more".
- FF B. Bishop noted that at the last budget meeting there was talk about replacing the 5 year banquet with a yearly installation banquet. Asked everyone to take it back to their respective companies for discussion. Brief discussion continued.

RESOLUTION #244 TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES.

MOTION: Robarge
SECOND: Waite
RESOLVED to dispense with the reading of the minutes.
VOTE: All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Spackmann with a second from Commissioner B. Chouinard to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petkus
District Secretary