

Board of Fire Commissioners

Greenfield Fire District
P.O. Box 103
Greenfield Center, NY 12833

Insurance Meeting – February 7, 2007

Present were: Commissioners Robarge, Spackmann, Waite, and later Commissioner King; Secretary Petkus,

Purpose of Meeting: Yearly review of insurance coverage with Dave Meager and Adirondack Insurance. Updated policy booklets were handed out by Dave Meager, as well as yellow designation of beneficiary cards.

Policy is through Utica National Insurance Group, based here in New York State. We are part of a group plan for fire departments. There are 600 departments in upstate NY that are in the plan.

Every year the profitability of the group is calculated, and if the group is in fact profitable, there is a dividend issued, which has been running at about 30%. Last year the District got back over \$10,000.00 in spite of the fact there was a \$22,000.00 claim.

Because of this type of group policy, there is no need for purchasing a separate terrorism policy; it is just automatically included in the policy for no additional charge.

Dave Meager hi-lighted some new things with the policy:

- It is a 3 year policy and the rates are locked in; the only thing that changed the premium this year was they raised the buildings by 6%, the trucks by 4% and the contents by 4%.
- Have guaranteed replacement cost coverage on this policy regarding the buildings, which means regardless of the limit shown on the policy, they will pay whatever it takes to rebuild the building the way it is including any changes in the building code.
- General liability: covers members, bystanders at the scene of a fire, etc. Includes defending any lawsuits that may be brought against the District or any of its members or employees. Includes \$1 million basic liability coverage for claims.
- Employee benefits liability: doesn't think we have. Covers mistakes that might be made in the administration of any benefits we may have, including the LOSAP. Can get us prices on that. Secretary Petkus felt that even if a mistake was made with LOSAP, the mistake could be made right, but she would confirm that with Penflex.
- Limits on trucks have been raised 4% and are based on how they come from the factory. Everything we add is separate. Suggested the Commissioners take a look at the limits on all the trucks to make sure they are okay with the figures. Currently have a \$1000 deductible on the trucks with full glass coverage. Next level of deductible is \$2500; if it was changed to this, you would save \$3000 per year on the premium. If you raised the deductible on the trucks to \$2500 and increased the limits on the trucks, the premium would probably balance itself out.
- Have a \$5 million dollar umbrella policy, so the total including the general liability is \$6 million limit. Also have mutual aid coverage and not owned auto coverage, which means if anyone uses their personal auto for District business and something happens, their liability is used first, but then this policy is used as a supplement.

- Bond coverage that protects the District from misappropriation of funds by anyone who handles money in the District. Everyone is automatically covered by \$10,000. In addition there is \$1.3 million coverage on the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer. Purchasing agent is automatically included; do not need to add separately.
- Workers' Compensation policy, which covers any paid employee and the Commissioners.
- Accidental Death policy for Commissioners and staff.
- Supplemental policy to protect the firefighters above and beyond Workers Compensation, including accidental death in line of duty, which is above and beyond the federal benefit or any life insurance they may have. Heart attack in line of duty is also covered now. Retraining benefit is at the max, cannot raise it any more. Benefit to cover any class of member for any authorized activity.
- Supplemental policy to Worker's Compensation disability benefits, which pays an additional \$125 over the W/C benefit, and an earned income replacement benefit of an additional \$125. Was very cost prohibitive to increase the amount of the earned income replacement amount. **To increase total benefit \$625, the premium increased about \$2000/year.**
- New policy out called the New and Enhanced Accident and Health Policy. Coverage includes up to \$15K modifying an insured's home or car if they become disabled. \$10K to cover health insurance premiums previously paid by an insured's employer but has been discontinued. New benefit to be able to collect W/C supplemental benefit to age 67 instead of the previous limit of 5 years. **This would change the policy premium by \$621/year.**
- Personal effects of firefighters damaged in the line of duty (ex: FF loses cell phone at a fire scene).
- Anyone on the property (ex: for elections, open house, etc.) are covered.
- Noted that the Federal Death and Disability Benefit for Public Safety Officers has been greatly expanded. Offered by the federal government.
- Can purchase a group term policy if the Commissioners are interested.
- New website: ISO has developed a free service, Fire Chiefs Online, for fire chiefs to get reports and information on commercial buildings in jurisdiction. Recommended the website for the Chief.
- Went over various deductibles.
- Utica Mutual offers a free EVOC course. 2 day course and Quaker Springs has signed up to offer it on May 19 and 20th. Email address of the person conducting the course is bfaugh@rochester.rr.com
- Dave would also like to possibly videotape everything again. Joyce to coordinate it with Don.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Petkus
District Secretary