

Board of Fire Commissioners

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

The October 29, 2018 special meeting of the Greenfield Fire District was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Chandler with a flag salute and moment of silence.

Present: Commissioners Chandler, Dussault, King, Miller, District Administrator/Treasurer Petkus. See sign in sheet for others in attendance.

Chief Ellsworth noted Maple Avenue requested tonight's meeting to discuss the new pick-up truck, the brush truck (F294) and MED296. There has been a lot of discussion regarding these vehicles, including whether or not the MED is going away if they take the pick-up truck. F294 has gone to Co #3 at the recommendation of the district truck committee; the purchase of the pick-up truck was also a district truck committee recommendation, however he believes it came from the Commissioners that the MED would be going away. At the last meeting it was made pretty clear that the Board made a decision either the pick-up truck or the MED. Apparently that was not what was agreed upon by the Maple Avenue membership.

A/C Bullard noted that when the district truck committee talked about the swap out of the brush truck for the pick-up, that was understood, and what was interpreted from the district truck committee was that 296 would be evaluated at the end of life and they would keep both vehicles until that time. The committee that designed the pick-up truck intended it to be a utility truck to be used to travel to Montour Falls or other classes, fire police, etc.; they were planning on carrying just a first in bag as a replacement if something goes wrong with 296. If the pick-up were to be used for an MED there is really no place to store drugs as they need to be stored inside the vehicle and it wasn't really set up to do that.

Commissioner King questioned the number of miles on 296; it was noted 50,000.00 and it is a 2006. A/C Bullard also noted that the pick-up was set up so that someone else in the district could use it to take to Montour Falls, but if it becomes the primary MED or MED substitute, it takes the MED right out. Currently there are 8 EMT's at Co #4 and a couple of the guys take it home at night. They were caught off guard as they thought they were keeping both of them, they are confused and would like some clarification, and the pick-up was certainly not set up to run as an MED vehicle.

President Nate King noted he went around and got the mileage off all the vehicles in the fire district and 296 by far is the most used vehicle in the district.

Commissioner Chandler questioned where all this got started; Chief Ellsworth noted that when Commissioner Sadowsky was here, he made it very clear to him that the MED was gone, and Chief Ellsworth assumed that it was also the feeling of the Board. President King noted that Commissioner Sadowsky flat out told him that the MED was staying; that he was all in favor of getting the pick-up truck to replace the brush truck, and that the MED was staying.

Commissioner King questioned who was on the truck committee; the Chief, A/C Bullard, Commissioner Chandler, D/C Middlebrook, Ex-Chief Davis at one point, Captain Stanton, D/C

Petkus, D/C Chouinard and Lt. Marshall. A/C Bullard noted that the company truck committee consists of himself, Nate King, Mike Bogardus, Tyler Bennett, Bill Petel.

Commissioner King questioned D/C Chouinard if he recalled any conversations. D/C Chouinard noted that before he got on the district committee he is not sure what was discussed; he does not recall, and could find nothing in looking back at his notes, that there was anything about doing away with the MED when the new vehicle came in, but after hearing what A/C Bullard said about the new truck not set up to be an MED now, when the MED is at the end of its life span, how is it going to be set up to be an MED then? If it is not good enough now, it is not going to be good enough then, and then he has a problem with that. Commissioner King also questioned Chief Davis, who noted that it was brought up about getting rid of both but he has been out of the loop since the pick-up was purchased, so maybe there had been further discussion. It was brought up previously and he remembers that A/C Bullard was adamant about not getting rid of the MED at that time. Chief Davis questioned what are they going to do with it when it is time to get rid of it? It is a 12 year old vehicle with 50,000 miles on it, what is it really worth? Commissioner King noted to drive it right into the ground. Chief Davis further noted that they have had it, it is causing hate and discontent because half their membership is here, and the Board is the one to make the ultimate decision. It won't make a good Chief's vehicle because it is so tiny and it would be replacing an old vehicle with an old vehicle. Chief Davis suggested driving it into the ground and when it's gone they don't get another one, or it's re-evaluated.

D/C Middlebrook also noted it was discussed but there was nothing definitive one way or the other that it was gone.

Commissioner Chandler noted there was discussion and questioned Joyce if she had found anything in the meeting minutes; she noted no she did not find anything, and she also asked both Deidre and Don if they remember anything about it; they both did not. Commissioner King noted he also reviewed the minutes back to July 2017. Commissioner Chandler also noted possibly bringing it up to the officers about being a shared vehicle. Chief Davis pointed out there is also one across the way they can take any time they want.

A/C Bullard noted the pick-up wasn't set up for that, and D/C Chouinard has a point regarding the end of life, we do not know when that will be, it could be tomorrow or 5-10 years from now, and maybe at that time the EMS program may not even be around.

Chief Ellsworth noted that it was his understanding that the truck was being set up with compartments to run it for EMS, and he remembers that from the truck committee, with the cap and the pull out and everything else put on it. President King noted he voted against the cap. D/C Middlebrook noted they did not need the back boards anymore, just the first in bag at this time. It was noted that down the road it can be converted, like 284 was.

Lt. Marshall questioned what exactly the pick-up is going to be used for. D/C Middlebrook noted utility basically; President King added classes, fire police, get hose, speedy dry, fire police vehicle, will probably be going to calls for those guys who are only qualified on small vehicles; they can throw packs in the back and go to calls, even though he doesn't like it. A/C Bullard noted it could be a personnel carrier.

Chief Ellsworth noted that the main purposed of this meeting tonight was to get everyone in the same room and get on the same page and make a decision. Commissioner King questioned the status of MED266; D/C Chouinard noted it is fine so far, it doesn't get much use right now as there are only 3 EMT's and 1 absolutely refuses to do EMS calls for the district. Hopefully in another month Lt. Marshall will have his EMT certification back. There are currently 16,000 miles on theirs. President King noted they probably should have been rotated.

Commissioner Dussault noted it is the most useful vehicle in the district and at the Avenue too, the next closest is 291 with 40,000. That vehicle alone has gone to more lifesaving calls in the district, at their end in the Wilton end, serving the Wilton community and it would be a shame to take that vehicle away until it is completely necessary at the end of its life. It gets EMT's to the scene in possible life saving situations, and it is very valuable.

Commissioner King asked if the brush truck at Co #3 was a done deal; as far as Chief Ellsworth is concerned, yes. Commissioner Dussault noted it was a concession that was made when they voted as a company. It was a bone of contention for years getting rid of that brush truck and that when they got the pick-up truck the brush truck would be going to Co #3, it was one for one. President King noted the brush truck was used more as a utility vehicle, and made more sense to have a pick-up truck serve as a utility vehicle rather than dual wheel truck with a skid unit on the back and using it to go to classes and throwing gear on the top of it.

Commissioner Chandler noted that as of the meeting last Wednesday he was a little angry at the way this whole thing was brought to the Board, understandably so. But looking at the numbers, it makes zero sense to get rid of 296 to make a couple of dollars and it makes no sense to change it into anything else; he can't stand the thing, it is too small.

Commissioner King noted that as he understands it, the new pick-up is to be used for utility, transports to schools, fire police; Both Commissioner Dussault and President King noted for district wide, and the Maple Avenue membership understands that as it was brought up last night at their meeting so everybody is clear that it is a district vehicle.

Chief Ellsworth wanted to make sure everyone is on the same page from what was discussed last night, that if someone goes to Montour Falls for a week, or someone is going to classes or a conference, instead of taking a Chief's vehicle, the new vehicle has to be made available. Commissioner Dussault noted that as President King said, that was brought up, discussed and the membership does understand that is what the vehicle is for and that is what was agreed upon, it is not just for exclusive use for Maple Avenue but for anyone in the district that needs to go to Montour Falls, EMS class, a conference; the vehicle will be made available.

Commissioner King noted that the brush truck stays at Middle Grove, and the MEDs right now stay as is in both stations at Greenfield Center and Maple Avenue. Commissioner Chandler noted that the Chief is in charge of the trucks, and asked if he was comfortable as long as the new truck is used as a district vehicle. Chief Ellsworth noted yes.

Chief Davis noted that now we need to get people in the seats; Chief Ellsworth noted that was discussed last night at great length, there were 22 people there, hopefully they all heard it, Chief Bogardus was there, let's see what happens. D/C Bogardus noted they did a re-assignment, he hasn't seen the sheet but he believes he has every night covered. President King noted he did not look clearly, but there are people that phone calls need to be made to that were not at the meeting; it will be filled.

Commissioner King noted that as a district a better job needs to be done that when people are sent to EMS school; when they return they should kind of participate.

On a different note, Commissioner Chandler noted that Mr. Tumel has moved to the Chazen Companies, in charge of their survey crew; he has given him a call and he hopes to hear from him in the next day or two to discuss surveying the new property at Co #4.

Motion made by Commissioner Dussault with a second from Commissioner King to dispense with the reading of the minutes

Motion made by Commissioner King with a second from Commissioner Miller to adjourn the

meeting at 7:55 PM. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Petkus". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Joyce Petkus
District Administrator/Treasurer