

Minutes of Regular Meeting July 14, 2004

PRESENT: Commissioners Constantine, Kaplan, Murray, Nappi and Woehrle
Treasurer Luft, Attorney Hayner and Secretary Ostrander.
Also present: Chief Battiste, Chief Colvin
Guests: GBFC Pres. Elliott, EMS Capt. Baker, J. Sherry, T. Congdon, R.
Tietz, R. Kordrupel.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. under the direction of Chairman Woehrle.

Motion/ Kaplan, 2nd/ Murray: The minutes of the June 9, 2004 Regular Meeting be approved as distributed. Passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from GBFC in support of hiring three additional firefighter/paramedics to the career department for many reasons including increased call volume and decreases in the number of volunteers.
- Letter from the NPFA notifying the Board of a recent incident pointing out the NPFA, GBFC and citizens of Niskayuna Fire District #1 are being subjected to unsafe situations due to unsafe staffing levels.
- Copies of letters sent to Standard Security Life Insurance Co.
- Copies of letters sent to candidates for firefighter/paramedic confirming interviews.
- Certified list of eligible candidates for firefighter/paramedic from the Schenectady County Civil Service Commission.
- Information for Grant Application and Reference Materials for 2004-2005 from the New York State Archives.
- Certificate of liability insurance for the Niskayuna Central School District
- Minutes from the Schenectady County Fire Advisory Board June 23rd meeting.
- GBFC Fire and EMS call report for June 2004.

BILLS:

Motion/Kaplan, 2nd/Nappi: That Bills #2004-268 through 2004-325 totaling \$67,621.73 be paid as presented. Passed 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Treasurer Luft presented the Financial Report for June 2004.
- He returned the check paid to him in June because Treasurer Bell was still being paid as Treasurer.
- Treasurer Luft explained the reconciliation summary.
- The treasurer's computer is operating and the financial information has been transferred to it.
- 6 resumes have been selected for review and will be narrowed to 3 for the permanent position of district treasurer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: - No report.

INSURANCE: - Commissioner Nappi reported that he has received new policies for the volunteer firefighter blanket accident insurance.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: No report.

APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT: Chairman Woehrle reported that the Fire Prevention Trailer from the FEMA Grant has been purchased and will be lettered. Chief Battiste reported that there would be a pump test on July 21st.

COMMUNICATIONS / INFORMATION SERVICES: Chief Battiste reported that a new base radio is needed for the Balltown Road Station.

Motion/Nappi, 2nd/Murray: To purchase a new base radio from Leonard Communications at a cost of up to \$1,500. Passed 5-0.

EMS & EQUIPMENT: Chief Battiste reported that the State Legislature returns to session on July 20th and EMS billing may be acted on at that time.

FACILITIES: Chairman Woehrle reported that he would like to get back on track for preliminary plans for a new building. He scheduled a Special Facilities Meeting on Tuesday, August 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTIONS: No report

PROTECTIVE GEAR & UNIFORMS: No report

SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM: Commissioner Kaplan reported that he submitted the 2002 SAP information as well as the letters from Jill Murray, Ray Hull, and Bob Saltzman requesting the change in entitlement age. He asked Secretary Ostrander to send the updated 2003 list.

INSPECTION & INSTALLATION: No report.

REPORT OF THE CHIEFS:

Chief Battiste: Chief Battiste reported that he would like to purchase 6 Scott SCBA bottles at a cost of \$5,097.60.

Motion/Murray, 2nd/Nappi: To authorize up to \$5,100 to purchase 6 Scott SCBA bottles. Passed 5-0.

Chief Battiste reported that a generator service wants \$895 per year to service the generators at both stations twice a year. He will investigate and see if he can get it done for less.

Chief Battiste also reported that the water fountain at the Balltown Road Station is not working and would like to replace it with bottled water at a cost of \$8.95 per month to rent the cooler and \$6.00 per 5 gallon bottle of water.

Motion/Nappi, 2nd/Constantine: To rent a water cooler at a cost of \$8.95 per month and purchase water at a cost of \$6.00 per 5 gallon bottle. Passed 5-0.

Chief Battiste reported that the situation for manpower is getting worse and is a safety hazard. He said that we need to do something before someone gets hurt. Figures were presented from fire departments with similar populations showing that their career departments have more manpower.

Chief Battiste would like to acknowledge the fine extra effort that Lt. Breault put into the revision of the FEMA Grant for Fire Prevention Equipment.

Chairman Woehrle reported that there would be a Working Budget Session Meeting on July 28th at 7:00 pm at the Balltown Road Station.

Chief Colvin:

Chief Colvin reported that he also supports the hiring of extra manpower. The volunteers have busy schedules and can't always respond.

Chief Colvin reported that the GBFC voted on a new member, Brian Flynn of Wendell Avenue, Schenectady. Brian has met all criteria for membership.

Motion/Nappi, 2nd/Constantine: To add Brian Flynn to the rolls. Passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Woehrle asked if Attorney Hayner researched contact with the press. He has not been able to find legal records and will continue to research.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

GBFC President Elliott reported that he contacted Steve Cartier who is going to reenlist in the Coast Guard and may be dropped from the military leave status in the Service Award Program.

Jim Sherry spoke on the hiring of three career personnel and is sure that the GBFC would help to educate the public on the matter.

Motion/Nappi, 2nd/Constantine: To adjourn to executive session at 8:21 p.m. to discuss hiring of a new firefighter/paramedic.

Chairman Woehrle returned the meeting to Regular Session at 9:33 p.m. .

Motion/Nappi, 2nd/Kaplan: In anticipation of a vacancy created by retiring personnel, to hire Patrick Griffiths as an entry level firefighter/paramedic effective September 12, 2004 with a salary and benefits per the agreement with the NPFA. Passed 5-0.

Commissioner Kaplan stated that he would investigate the cost of a full financial audit and report back at the next meeting.

Motion/Constantine, 2nd/Kaplan: To adjourn at 9:41 p.m.

➤ **The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, 2004, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Ostrander III
Fire District Secretary