

Minutes of Regular Meeting February 9, 2005

PRESENT: Commissioners Barlyn, Constantine and Chairman Woehrle
Treasurer Lagan and Secretary Ostrander
Also present: 1st Assist. Chief Cottrell.
Guests: Capt. Fritz, S. Sweet, D. Elliott and J. Sherry.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:07 p.m. under the direction of Chairman Woehrle.

No one from the public made comment on the tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:12 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. under the direction of Chairman Woehrle.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Constantine: The minutes of the January 12, 2005 Regular Meeting be approved as distributed. Passed 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Correspondence from Attorney Hayner regarding a draft letter to the State Comptroller defining our service awards program contribution.
- A form from the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York requesting Board information for the 2005 Directory.
- Certificate of Commendation from REMO for a Cardiac Arrest Reversal that was presented to the Board at the Installation/Inspection Dinner.
- A note of Thanks from Richard Ruzzo, Club Manager of Mohawk Golf Club for our business for the Inspection/ Installation Dinner.
- A Note of Thanks from NPD Chief Lew Moskowitz and his wife Patricia for the invitation to the Installation Dinner.
- Minutes from the Schenectady County Fire Advisory Board meeting of January 26, 2005.
- Correspondence from the Town of Niskayuna defining the Payments in lieu of Taxes to the Fire District.

- Letter of Thanks from Chief Robert W. Farstad for mutual aid for a fire located at 719 Congress Street.
- Notarized copy of the Notice of Public Hearing that appeared in The Gazette on January 31, 2005.

- Notice from Association of Fire Districts of The Capital Area of the Annual Banquet on Saturday, April 9th 2005.
- Minutes from the Assoc. of Fire Dist. of The Capitol Area Board of Directors meeting.
- Fire District Affairs Bulletin for December/January.

BILLS:

Motion/ Constantine, 2nd/ Barlyn: That Bills #2005-063 through 2005-110, totaling \$29,943.32, be paid as presented. Passed 3-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Treasurer Lagan submitted the Financial Report for January 2005.
- The first installment of the tax levy has been received from the Town for \$612,126.
- There were a couple of oversights in the budget transfers last month and an additional resolution is needed to reclassify budget items.
- Expenditures are in greater detail.
- Payment has been made to the NYS Retirement System.
- One hundred dollars has been received from B. Dillon toward his outstanding Nextel bill. He has committed to pay fifty dollars a month to pay it off.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: - No report.

INSURANCE: - No report.

MEDIA RELATIONS: No report.

APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT: Chairman Woehrle reported that the new Chief's car was ordered on January 17th and the new pick-up truck was ordered on February 7th. The pick-up is a Chevrolet ¾ ton HD2500, short box with 4WD. The cost of the pick-up truck on State Contract to our specifications was \$22,655.25. This did not include the lights, siren and plow. The lights and siren are being looked at separately and a plow has been ordered locally.

2nd Assistant Chief Ostrander reported an error in the computation for the cost of the Chief's car last month. One of the features costing \$290 that was listed in the specifications was accidentally left out of the total. The corrected total is \$30,935.74.

Motion/ Constantine, 2nd/ Barlyn: To amend the total cost of the 2005, Chevrolet Tahoe from State Contract as specified to a cost of \$30,935.74. Passed 3-0.

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SERVICES: Chairman Woehrle reported that the District computers were in need of good firewall, antivirus, and hacker protection since they contained confidential patient information. Also the current web page service could extend e-mail forwarding to allow career and any others of the Fire District to have an e-mail address on the District web site. The recommendation is to purchase Watchguard Firebox XS at \$300 for hardware and \$110/year subscription, Symantec Corporate Anti-virus v9.x for \$340/year and \$18 media, and E-mail forwarding service at an additional \$10/ month to the current Web Hosting.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Constantine: To purchase the Security recommendations and e-mail forwarding as quoted. Passed 3-0.

EMS & EQUIPMENT: Captain Fritz made a presentation to replace the current AED's, which are in need of expensive replacement batteries, with three new Zoll AED's, which will be compatible with the current systems and use less expensive batteries as replacements. The total cost of the three AED's with trade in of old units is \$4,052.30. Chairman Woehrle and Treasurer Lagan said that there is money available in the budget to purchase. Secretary Ostrander pointed out that the Board recently passed a resolution to standardize the District heart monitor equipment to Zoll.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Constantine: To purchase three Zoll AED's per the written proposal at a cost of \$4,052.30. Passed 3-0.

FACILITIES: Chairman Woehrle reported on the inspection. There were some minor facilities issues noted and vehicles U-421 and A-41 were in need of body repairs. A quote was received to replace ceiling tiles at the River Road Station at a cost of \$1,240.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Constantine: To repair the ceiling at the River Road Station at a cost of \$1,240. Passed 3-0.

ELECTIONS: No report.

PROTECTIVE GEAR & UNIFORMS: No report.

SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM: Secretary Ostrander reported that the list of eligible members for 2004 has not been posted or received by the Board. 1st Assist.Chief Cottrell reported that Chief Colvin is working on the list and it will be completed shortly.

INSPECTION & INSTALLATION: Chairman Woehrle reported that the Inspection / Installation Dinner went well even though the weather did not cooperate. There was a problem with the centerpieces that has been resolve with the Mohawk Golf Club. The bill has been submitted to the Grand Boulevard Fire Company.

REPORT OF THE CHIEFS: No report

OLD BUSINESS:

Secretary Ostrander reported that the 2003 Commissioner picture has been completed and is on display.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Woehrle reported that he has been working with the Town Assessor on the tax exemption for volunteers. There are two categories for exemption. One is for active members with over 5 years of service and less than 20 years of service. These members will be submitted by a certified list on a yearly bases. The other category is for members with over 20 years of service. They will receive a lifetime exemption and will be submitted to the Assessor on a certified list.

County Legislator Susan Savage arrived at this time and made a presentation to the Board on the County's position on the Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters. She explained the mechanism and left information to be circulated to the volunteers as well as additional applications.

The Fire District Resolution to adopt Tax Exemption for Volunteer members was presented and read by Secretary Ostrander.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Constantine: To adopt the Resolution as presented (attached) effective immediately. Passed 3-0.

Chairman Woehrle reported that Chief Battiste would like to attend the International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Denver in August.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Constantine: To authorize Chief Battiste to attend the IAFC conference in Denver and to pay his expenses. Passed 3-0.

Motion/ Constantine, 2nd/ Barlyn: To transfer \$33,063.00 to personal services and \$14,734.60 to equipment in the budget. Passed 3-0.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Shane Sweet asked why there was no Lieutenant Civil service exam scheduled. Chairman Woehrle explained that the current list has four people and is good until June of 2006.

Motion/ Constantine, 2nd/ Barlyn: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. for the purpose of hiring new firefighters. Passed 3-0.

The meeting was returned to Regular Session at 8:38 p.m. by Chairman Woehrle

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Constantine: To appoint John Baker to the position of Entry Level Firefighter/ Paramedic effective March 14, 2005 with a salary and benefits per the agreement with the NPFA and with a one year probationary period as required by Civil Service. This appointment is dependent upon passing medical examinations and arson background check.

Commissioner Thomas Constantine: Yes

Commissioner Lyle Barlyn: Yes

Commissioner Edward Woehrle: Yes

Commissioner Robert Murray: Absent

Commissioner Thomas Nappi: Absent Passed 3-0

Motion/ Constantine, 2nd/ Barlyn: To appoint Joseph Congdon to the position of Entry Level Firefighter/ Paramedic effective March 15, 2005 with a salary and benefits per the agreement with the NPFA and with a one year probationary period as required by Civil Service. This appointment is dependent upon passing medical examinations and arson background check.

Commissioner Thomas Constantine: Yes
Commissioner Lyle Barlyn: Yes
Commissioner Edward Woehrle: Yes
Commissioner Robert Murray: Absent
Commissioner Thomas Nappi: Absent Passed 3-0

Motion/ Constantine, 2nd/ Barlyn: To appoint Robert Agans Jr. to the position of Entry Level Firefighter/ Paramedic effective March 16, 2005 with a salary and benefits per the agreement with the NPFA and with a one year probationary period as required by Civil Service. This appointment is dependent upon passing medical examinations and arson background check.

Commissioner Thomas Constantine: Yes
Commissioner Lyle Barlyn: Yes
Commissioner Edward Woehrle: Yes
Commissioner Robert Murray: Absent
Commissioner Thomas Nappi: Absent Passed 3-0

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Constantine: To adjourn at 8:41p.m. Passed 3-0.

➤ **The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2005, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Ostrander III
Fire District Secretary