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Minutes of Regular Meeting December 13, 2006

PRESENT: Commissioners Barlyn, Constantine, Murray, Nappi and Chairman Woehrle
Attorney Hayner, Treasurer Hudy, and Secretary Ostrander.
Also present: Chief Lingenfelter and Assist. Chief Cottrell along with several
guests.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. under the direction of Chairman Woehrle.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Murray: To approve the minutes of the November 8, 2006 Regular Meeting. Passed 5-0.

Motion/ Murray, 2nd/ Barlyn: To approve the minutes of the November 28, 2006 Special Meeting. Passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A copy of a letter from William Van Hoesen, to the Fire Advisory Board asking for Centralized Dispatch assistance by writing to our State Representatives.
- Copy of the results of the Special Election for the Bond held on November 28, 2006.
- Copy of the results of the Annual Election for a Commissioner position held on December 12, 2006.
- Notarized copy of the Legal Notice that appeared in The Gazette on November 12, 2006 giving Notice of the Annual Election.
- A letter from the Niskayuna P.F.A. thanking Commissioner Murray for the amicable solution to the Health Care Insurance predicament and asking for response to the idea of extending the current contract, which expires at the end of 2008, for two more years at 3.0% salary increases annually with no changes in any other part of the contract.
- A copy of a letter from Attorney Hayner stating that the amendments to our Model Plan of NYS Deferred Compensation are not ready and that the letter from the NYS Deferred Compensation Board and attachment should be made part of the official correspondence.
- Letter from the Grand Boulevard Fire Company with the list of their elected officers for 2007.

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- Letter from the Grand Boulevard Fire Company notifying the Board that at the special election meeting held on December 7, 2006, the members of the GBFC nominated the following members as Chief officers for 2007: Chief – John Ostrander; 1st Assistant Chief – Larry Cottrell. Additionally they ask that the position of 2nd Assistant Chief be allowed to remain open at this time.

BILLS:

Motion/ Murray, 2nd/ Nappi: To pay bills #2006-674 through 2006-736, totaling \$43,619.75. Passed 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Treasurer Hudy presented the Financial Report for November 2006.
- There were no unusual expenses for the month.
- The format of the report will be modified starting next year.
- We will remain within the budget through year's end.
- We are awaiting some insurance reimbursements.
- Treasurer Hudy also stated that she is looking at different linen companies for quotes for 2007.
- We are having problems with ADP and Treasurer Hudy would like to switch to Paychex after the 12/15 payroll.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: No report.

INSURANCE: No report.

MEDIA RELATIONS: No report.

APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT: Chief Lingenfelter reported that we did not receive the grant for new SCBA.

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SERVICES: No report.

EMS & EQUIPMENT: No report

FACILITIES: Chairman Woehrle reported that the window in the recreation room has been repaired and the gas has been disconnected next door. He also reported that the furnace at the River Road Station has been replaced.

ELECTIONS: Commissioner Barlyn reported that the Bond was defeated in the Special Election and that Commissioner Woehrle was re-elected in the Annual election.

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PROTECTIVE GEAR & UNIFORMS: No report.

SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM: Attorney Hayner reported that we are still waiting for an Appellate ruling on payment to members past entitlement age.

INSPECTION & INSTALLATION: Secretary Ostrander reminded everyone that the Inspection/Installation is scheduled for January 27th 2007. Invitations will go out at the end of December.

NEW FIRE STATION:

Chairman Woehrle reported that the project would be re-evaluated next month.

REPORT OF THE CHIEFS:

Chief Lingenfelter: Chief Lingenfelter submitted his monthly report to the Board.

- There was a problem with Blue Cross Dental that has been addressed.
- All but three of the new medical insurance enrollment forms have been received to date.

Assist. Chief Cottrell: Congratulated Chairman Woehrle on his re-election.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion/ Nappi, 2nd/ Barlyn: To approve the new District Rules and Regulations. Passed 5-0.

Attorney Hayner reported on the request from the Niskayuna Permanent Firefighters Association for a Valentine's Day fund raising project using district property as a pick-up point. He stated that there is no specific authority for the NPFA for fund raising but there is specific authority for volunteers. Attorney Hayner is concerned that this could be a problem. Commissioner Murray stated that taxpayers are upset now and that this may upset them more. Commissioner Barlyn agreed that this could have a negative impact.

Firefighter Lessis offered that the NPFA would make it clear that it would be a NPFA and not a District fund-raiser.

Commissioner Constantine stated that he is not in favor because we have a florist in the district that this would take business from. He also stated that the public is mad because we couldn't extend voting hours.

Lt. Vena withdrew the request. Firefighter Lessis asked if the NPFA could move forward off-property. Attorney Hayner stated that if it was within the Rules and Regulations of the District, it might be possible.

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Commissioner Murray agreed with Commissioner Constantine's point that having a florist in the district was a concern. Chairman Woehrle recommended that it not be pursued off property. Commissioner Barlyn thanked them for bringing this to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Woehrle stated that it was under consideration that we change the amount required for double signatures on checks to \$500.

Motion / Murray, 2nd / Nappi: To change the amount required for double signature checks from \$5,000 to \$500. Passed 5-0.

Commissioner Barlyn left the room.

Motion /Murray, 2nd / Nappi: To change the payroll service from ADP to Paychex after the 12/15/06 payroll. Passed 4-0.

Commissioner Barlyn returned.

Motion / Murray, 2nd / Nappi: To create a Reserve Account for Equipment. Passed 5-0.

Motion/ Nappi, 2nd/ Constantine: To adopt recent revisions to the NYS Deferred Compensation Model Plan. Passed 5-0.

Commissioner Barlyn asked Attorney Hayner what the Board should do if the courts do not settle the Service Award Program issue. Attorney Hayner recommends that the Board wait for the court decision, which should be made by 12/22/06.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Lt. Vena reported that we are close to a final narcotic program for the paramedics. The attorney representing St. Clare's Hospital is reviewing the program.

J. Sherry asked if promotions were coming. Chairman Woehrle stated that it was on the agenda for Executive Session.

Eric Moses, a resident, stated that as a taxpayer, he thinks that the new fire station is absolutely needed and is in support of the project. He said that Niskayuna has the best school system and the best fire and medical service and that helped in his decision to move back to this community. He said that he would help with the committee.

Ray George, a resident and past volunteer member, stated that the new station was too much and should be pared back a bit. He asked why the district doesn't bill for ambulance service to offset the costs. The Board explained the long movement with State Legislators to change an existing law that does not allow Fire Districts to bill for Emergency Medical Services. It was explained that this has been pursued for several years but there have been several political stumbling blocks.

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Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Murray: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. for negotiations and promotions. Passed 5-0.

Chairman Woehrle returned the meeting to Regular Session at 8:46 p.m.

Chairman Woehrle announced that the Organizational Meeting was set for January 3, 2007 at 5:00 pm. A Special Meeting for promotions would immediately follow.

Motion/ Murray, 2nd / Constantine: To adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Passed 5-0.

- **The Organizational Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.**
- **The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Ostrander III
Secretary