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Minutes of Regular Meeting March 14, 2007

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. under the direction of Chairman Woehrle.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Murray: To approve the minutes of the February 7, 2007 Regular Meeting. Passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Notice from the Association of Fire Districts of the Capital Area for the Annual Workshop on May 19th at Thomas Corners Fire Dept.
- Copy of a letter from Chairman Woehrle to Town Supervisor Luke Smith requesting to meet with him and the Town Board to discuss the possibility of purchasing undeveloped land next to Town Hall for the purpose of a new fire station.
- Letter to Chairman Woehrle from Luke Smith stating that the Town Board has discussed the Fire District's request to consider the sale of land adjacent to the Town Hall for the purpose of locating a new fire station at the site and it was the consensus of the Board that the Town is not interested in selling this property.
- Certificate of liability insurance from the Town of Colonie Fire Prevention, for Fire, Rescue, Equipment Training at the Colonie Municipal Training Center.
- Certificate of liability insurance from Niagara Mohawk Power Corp for the land next to the Balltown Road Station.
- Letter from the Grand Boulevard Fire Co. stating that the Fire Company has voted to add Kevin McGill, 1609 Balltown Rd as a firefighter member.
- Letter from the GBFC stating that in the past six months, the GBFC has been actively discussing uniform issues specifically the price and purchase of rescue squad jackets. Because OSHA has issued newer requirements for jackets that include protection against Blood Borne Pathogens, as well as being reflective in adverse weather & road conditions, being warm and being a water proof jacket for 3 seasons. The Fire Company is asking the Board of Commissioners to consider future budgeting to replace old and antiquated rescue style jackets as part of a newer updated district uniform and one that more readily fits the needs of today's rescue worker.

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- A note of thanks from NPD Chief Moskowitz for inviting him to the awards and installation dinner.
- A note of thanks from retired Capt. Robert Smith for the plaque commemorating his fire service career.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: No one spoke from the floor.

BILLS:

Motion/ Murray, 2nd/ Nappi: To pay bills #2007-075 through 2007-134, totaling \$44,980.32. Passed 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Treasurer Hudy submitted a Financial Report for February 2007 and reported on the new format for the monthly report.
- The Nextel bills are high this month and all monies have not been turned in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Commissioner Murray reported that the State is going to be changing the rules for cell phones. Our auditor has also recommended changes. He said that within a given period of time, we should have members transfer their phones from the District account to their own billing.

Motion Nappi, 2nd/ Murray: Members must transfer their personal phones from the District account to their own by May 20th or the accounts will be cancelled. Passed 5-0. A letter will be sent to each individual who has a personal phone, with the District account number, their phone number and a statement allowing them to transfer the same phone number to their own account.

Chairman Woehrle mentioned that the invoices from Marty's True Value Hardware need more specific information on them.

INSURANCE: Commissioner Nappi reported that we received a certificate of liability insurance for our narcotics program.

MEDIA RELATIONS: No report.

APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT: Chief Lingenfelter reported that the front tires on E-401 and T-405 are dry-rotting and will need to be replaced. He is looking into options for replacement.

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SERVICES: Chairman Woehrle reported that the County is going to re-number all ambulances and medical fly cars with numbers beginning with the digit nine. For example, Ambulance-40 will become A-940 and A-41 will become A-941. This is to make emergency radio transmissions more clear as to what type of vehicle is communicating. He also reported that the County has received a grant from the State to investigate central dispatch for the near future.

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EMS & EQUIPMENT: Chief Lingenfelter reported that electronic EMS Charts is online and has reduced in-hospital time dramatically. We have completed our hardware and software pricing and approval is requested for \$45,139 for the purchase of a one-year service subscription to EMS Charts and the purchase of desktop and laptop computers to fully implement the program. All funds will be reimbursed by the member item grants provided to us by Senator Farley and Assemblyman Tedisco. There will be no net cost to the Fire District once reimbursements are received.

FACILITIES: Chief Lingenfelter reported that the ceiling tiles noted in the inspection have been replaced. The volunteer office has been cleaned and the heater in the exercise room still needs repair. At the River Road Station the generator room has been cleaned and the roof repair is pending better weather.

ELECTIONS: No report.

PROTECTIVE GEAR & UNIFORMS: Commissioner Barlyn spoke on jackets for the GBFC members and asked Chief Ostrander to report back with total costs at the next meeting. He also asked that reflective vests be placed in apparatus.

SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM: Chief Ostrander reported that the Service Awards points for 2006 have been posted for 30 days and there was one challenge that was cleared up. There are eighteen volunteers who received Service Awards in 2006 and the list will be filed along with the list of members who earned points past entitlement age to the insurance agency.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Nappi: To approve the 2006 Service Awards point list as submitted. Passed 5-0.

INSPECTION & INSTALLATION: No report.

NEW FIRE STATION:

Chairman Woehrle reported that the project to build a new fire station is on hold indefinitely.

REPORT OF THE CHIEFS:

Chief Lingenfelter: Chief Lingenfelter submitted his monthly report to the Board. Highlighted items include:

- Five candidates were interviewed by Chairman Woehrle and Chief Lingenfelter to fill vacancies in the career staff. One candidate is fully trained to NYS Minimum Standards for Firefighting Personnel. The second candidate would be required to complete their basic fire training within 18 months from the time of appointment. Immediate appointment of both candidates on April 1, 2007 would achieve a net savings of approximately \$15,000 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007. Specific discussion on qualifications would be appropriate for executive session.

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- On March 13, 2007 we responded to a fatal MVA on Hillside Avenue. Mutual aid was called for from Niskayuna Fire District No.2 and Mohawk Ambulance. A Critical Incident Stress Debriefing is being held as we speak for the responders to that incident.

Chief Ostrander:

- The turn-out gear inspection is just about completed. There are a few members in need of boots, gloves and hoods.
- Chief Ostrander spoke at the GBFC monthly meeting to improve on volunteer participation in drills and calls.

Report of the Niskayuna Permanent Fireman's Association:

- Joe Congdon reported that the NPFA donations to each elementary school for playground renovations have brought good publicity from the schools. .

Report of the Grand Boulevard Fire Company:

- President Baker reported that the GBFC Board of Directors has met and would like to address the Board of Commissioners to discuss an alcohol policy.

OLD BUSINESS:

Secretary Ostrander reported that he and Chairman Woehrle met with a representative from Newkey Media Solutions to discuss the possibility of upgrading and improving the District web page. A quote has been received and more information will be available to make a decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion/Murray, 2nd/ Barlyn: To approve the District Credit Card Policy. Passed 5-0.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Murray: To purchase new front tires for E-401 from the State Contract at a cost \$1,092.54. Passed 5-0.

Motion/ Murray, 2nd/ Barlyn: To purchase new front tires for T-405 from the State Contract at a cost of \$1,102.00. Passed 5-0.

Motion/ Nappi, 2nd/ Murray: To add Kevin McGill of 1609 Balltown Road to the roles as a volunteer firefighter. Passed 5-0.

Motion/ Murray, 2nd/ Barlyn: To approve the purchase of the subscription to EMS Charts and the necessary software and hardware to fully implement the program for \$45,139 which will be reimbursed from the State grant. Passed 5-0.

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Chairman Woehrle reported that he attended the State-wide Fire District teleconference at the high school. Information received included information on the new laws for fire district budgetary processes. A budget hearing must be held the third Tuesday in October and a draft must be approved and available five days prior to the hearing. It must be publicized fifteen days prior on our web page, in Town Hall, and on the sign in front of the River Road Station.

Commissioner Constantine spoke on Town-wide EMS and Ambulance billing. He reported that we do not want to jeopardize our response time to medical calls or any jobs or anything, but we need to investigate the possibility of using Mohawk Ambulance Service, (MAS), for transportation only. We could use our current career and volunteer staff for initial response in two minutes then allow MAS to transport the patient. MAS is available on April 4th at 7:00 pm for a meeting to address this issue and we should meet an hour earlier with a special committee to discuss this first. He stated that town-wide EMS will not happen under the current town administration, ambulance billing will not happen and the new firehouse will not happen under our current system and we need to explore possible options.

Commissioner Barlyn stated that he has contacted both Clifton Park EMS and Colonie EMS about their systems. He said that the comptrollers of the towns are not happy with their systems and that only about 45% of money is recovered in their billing process. He totally reaffirms what Commissioner Constantine stated and added that start-up costs of a town-wide EMS are prohibitive.

An EMS Investigating Committee was formed to include: The Board of Fire Commissioners, the District Chiefs and Assistant Chief, the Medical Director, and two members of the NPFA.

Motion/ Barlyn, 2nd/ Nappi: To hold a special meeting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 to discuss EMS options with the Investigating Committee prior to MAS giving a presentation at 7:00 pm. Passed 5-0.

Chairman Woehrle stated that he was contacted by a resident from Dean Street who asked how they could petition for a special election to get rid of our ambulances. Attorney Hayner researched this request and found that there is no such mechanism for citizens to petition for this.

Any Additional Business to come before the Board:

Past Chief Jim Sherry stated that we have a problem with turn-out gear cleaning and he would like to see the Board purchase a machine to clean turn-out gear ASAP to address this.

Motion/ Nappi, 2nd/ Constantine: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. to discuss a matter with the GBFC Board of Directors, a career personnel matter, and the Chief's review. Passed 5-0.

Chairman Woehrle returned the meeting to Regular Session at 10:19 p.m.

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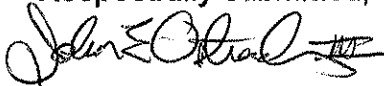
A discussion from the floor took place about replacement of the firefighter/paramedic who recently resigned and the firefighter/paramedic going out on retirement.

Motion/ Constantine, 2nd/ Barlyn: To table the subject until the April Regular Meeting.
Passed 5-0.

Motion/ Murray, 2nd / Barlyn: To adjourn at 10:22 p.m. Passed 5-0.

➤ **The next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



John E. Ostrander III
Secretary