

## **Minutes of Regular Meeting July 8, 2009**

---

---

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Murray, Nappi and Chairman Woehrle, Attorney Hayner  
Secretary Versocki, Chief Lingenfelter, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Elliott, Cpt. Congdon  
Cpt. Fritz Lt. J. Vena, S. Vena & David Pacheco.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. under the direction of Chairman Woehrle.

Motion/ Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Nappi: To approve the minutes of the June 10, 2009 regular Meeting as read.  
Passed 3-0.

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: To approve the minutes of the June 26, 2009 Meeting to Open  
Ambulance Bids. Passed 3-0.

Motion/ Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Nappi: To approve the minutes of the June 29, 2009 Special Meeting to Award  
Bid for New Ambulance. Passed 3-0.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A recognition letter and plaque from Fire Districts of NY Mutual Insurance Company for being a charter member for the past 30 years.
- A letter from Utica National Insurance Group representative John B. Lauffer, who acknowledged visiting the Balltown Rd. station recently and discussed a survey focusing on the current fire house and potential expansion of the building.
- A thank you note and \$100 check for Niskayuna District Paramedic Services rendered on April 23, 2009 by Pat Varno of 1036 Vrooman Ave. Niskayuna, NY 12309.
- A certification of eligibility for Fire Captain-Paramedic from The Schenectady County Civil Service Commission listing James S. Vena and William M. Sims.
- A fact sheet of The North Field Land Area Preferred Alternatives by The U.S. Dept. of Energy.
- A letter from The State of New York Compensation Board in regard to injured Firefighter/Paramedic David Reimenschneider.
- A letter of thanks to Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic James Vena and The Firefighters of Niskayuna Fire District No. 1 from Niskayuna High School intern Mike Pennik.
- A conference request for from Chief Lingenfelter to attend The Career Chief's Meeting in Binghamton, NY on July 21, 2009.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:** There was nothing from the floor.

**BILLS:**

Motion/Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: To pay bills 2009 - 361 thru 2009 - 415 from May 13, 2009 through June 8, 2009 totaling \$56,214.20 as reviewed. Passed 3-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Commissioner Murray reviewed the financial report through June 30, 2009 and reported that although he did not receive the advanced breakout of the financial report, at first glance he did not see any issues to report on. Commissioner Murray did report that Treasurer DeAngelus is close to wrapping up the NYS Audit.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****FINANCE:**

- Chairman Woehrle reminded the finance committee that it is time to begin working on the 2010 budget process.

Chief Lingenfelter reported:

- The 2008 Ice Storm Disaster reimbursement was received in the amount of \$11,928.72.
- A check for \$8,000.00 was received by Mid Michigan Medical Equipment for the sale of 2 surplus Zoll Monitors.

**INSURANCE:**

- Commissioner Murray reported that information received from The Fire Districts of NY Mutual Insurance Company stated that in four (4) correspondences all dated June 4, 2009; there have been 4 separate checks dated: November 2008, February 9, 2009, February 23, 2009 and March 9, 2009 that never cleared. None of these four (4) checks were ever cashed by The District Treasurer. Commissioner Murray reported that he will contact the Insurance Company for more information.
- Commissioner Nappi reported that he received a certificate of Liability Insurance regarding the Niskayuna High School Intern Program.

**MEDIA RELATIONS:** No Report.

**APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT:**

- Chairman Woehrle reported that the Ambulance Bid was awarded to Northeastern Rescue Vehicles Inc. of Syracuse, NY. Chairman Woehrle thanked the apparatus committee with special thanks to Captain Congdon and Lt. Vena for their input.

**COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SERVICES:**

- Chairman Woehrle reported that Chief Lingenfelter ordered all communications equipment last month. Pagers and radios have been received and inventoried.

**EMS & EQUIPMENT:** No Report.

**FACILITIES:** No Report.

**ELECTIONS:** No Report.

**PROTECTIVE GEAR & UNIFORMS:**

Chief Elliott reported:

- 28 pieces of turn out gear were repaired at The River Rd. Station.
- 14 firefighters needing new turn out gear have been identified and will be measured next Wednesday at The Balltown Rd. station.

**SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM:** No Report.

**INSPECTION & INSTALLATION:** No Report.

**NEW FIRE STATION:**

Chief Lingenfelter Reported:

- Grant proposal for the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant is near completion. We will be asking for a district contribution to make our proposal more viable.
- I am currently working with Attorney Hayner and town officials to obtain immunity from zoning requirements.
- The project has been reviewed by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and a determination that our project will have “No Impact upon cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion in the State and National Register of Historic Places.”

Commissioner Nappi asked David Pacheco to speak on his behalf. Dave reported:

- The review by the Historic Preservation is in your favor.
- The District is registered as a LEED project which is also in your favor.
- According to the stimulus grant language a contribution of the overall funding for these projects is not necessary however, the committee feels that making the contribution may work in your favor in the grant process and therefore they suggest at least a 10% contribution.

The Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the committee agreed that the contribution would be 15% which would breakdown the figures as follows:

The projected cost for new fire station -	\$5,293,844.00
15% District contribution for new fire station -	\$1,953,200.00 (subject to bond vote)
Stimulus Grant application -	\$3,340,000.00

The projected cost of a 20 year bond for the 15% listed above would cost each taxpayer approximately \$2.00 per month.

Other hurdles include:

- Town Zoning immunity for new fire station.
- The grant submission deadline is July 10, 2009.

David Pacheco took this opportunity to acknowledge the incredibly detailed work of Dale - Lingenfelter and Jim Vena. Some professional grant writers lack the skill and aptitude shown by these two and in his professional opinion, utilizing Dale and Jim has saved a considerable amount of project costs.

Commissioner Nappi also thanked Dave Pacheco for his help with this project.

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEFS:**

### **Chief Lingenfelter:**

- Probationary Firefighter/Paramedics Powers and Wessels are approaching the end of their Civil Service Probationary Period with reports due back on July 24, 2009. Based on their performance to date, it is my recommendation that they be retained and appointed on a permanent basis with Niskayuna Fire District No. 1
- The 2009-2010 exam schedules were published by New York State Civil Service Commission. The state-wide firefighter exam has been moved from June to March of 2010 as I requested earlier this year.
- Our stock of screen-printed uniform exercise clothing is in need of replenishment to outfit new members and replace worn/damaged items. *Request authorization for up to \$1400 for screen-printed uniform exercise clothing stock.* (Shorts, Sweat pants, T-shirts)

### **Department Activity:**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	
<b>May Incidents:</b>	128	172	
EMS	94	120	
Fire/Other	34	52	
<b>YTD Incidents:</b>	876	1004	(6/30)

<b>Other Activities:</b>	Emergency Callback:	46 hours
	Fire/EMS/Codes In-Service Training:	57 hours
	Fire Company Drill:	217 hours
	Outreach Training:	26 hours

**Chief Elliott:** Nothing further to report.

**Report of the Niskayuna Permanent Fireman's Association:** No Report.

**Report of the Grand Boulevard Fire Company:** No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: To spend up to \$1,400 for re-stocking screen printed exercise clothing stock (shorts, sweat pants and t-shirts). Passed 3-0.

Motion/ Murray , 2<sup>nd</sup>: To approve the conference request form for Chief Lingenfelter to attend The Career Chief's meeting in Binghamton, NY on July 21, 2009. Passed 3-0.

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: That Firefighter/ Paramedic Shannon Powers be retained and appointed on a permanent basis with Niskayuna Fire District No.1. Passed 3-0.

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: That Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Wessels be retained and appointed on a permanent basis with Niskayuna Fire District No.1. Passed 3-0.

Chairman Woerhle asked Attorney Thomas Hayner to report on a pending lawsuit in Onondaga, NY Pertaining to The NIMS (National Incident Management System).

Attorney Hayner discussed the particulars of the 2008 case where a firefighter was killed in the line of duty when a Onondaga County Fire Coordinator bypassed the chain of command and directed firefighters to do firefighting work contrary to the NIMS 300 course which has been a New York State required course since 1996 as signed into law by then Governor George Pataki. The allegation is that the County Coordinator did not complete the NIMS 300 course.

Lieutenant James Vena asked how does this situation affect the current command and control structure.

Chief Lingenfelter stated that the current command structure is already established and the chain of command will be utilized as stated in Niskayuna Fire District No. 1 **Standard Operating Procedures**.

Chairman Woehrle stated that current Volunteer Chiefs have received the NIMS 200 training. Arrangements will be made to schedule the NIMS 300 course training.

**Any Additional Business to come before the Board:** None

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: To adjourn to executive session at 8:14 pm. Passed 3-0.

Motion/ Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Nappi: To return to regular session at 9:15 pm. Passed 3-0.

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: To adjourn at 9:16 pm. Passed 3-0.

**The next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*William J. Versocki*  
Secretary