

## **Minutes of Regular Meeting October 14, 2009**

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**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Murray, Nappi, Daly and Chairman Woehrle, Attorney Hayner Secretary Versocki, Treasurer Splendido, Cpt. T. Congdon, Lt. J. Vena, D. Pacheco B. Saltzman & P. Griffiths.

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

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: To approve the minutes of the September 9, 2009 regular Meeting as read. Passed 4-0.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A letter from Captain Frank Routa who retired in 1993 stating that he was never noticed of a change in his medical insurance through the Fire District. He further states that his medical bills are piling up and is requesting help to clear up this mix up.
- A letter from Tina Silvernail R.N., wife of Medical Director Dr. John Silvernail; offering help to our fire department in discussing ways to improve the health of our firefighters.
- A thank you card from a resident on Regent St. when Fire District & Fire Company members responded to their home for an undisclosed emergency.
- A letter from The Grand Blvd. Fire Company stating they voted to add probationary EMS member Dennis Plakas of 2045 Arkona Ct. Niskayuna, NY 12309 and ask the commissioners to approve and add Dennis to the Fire District roles.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:** At this time Grand Blvd. Fire Company Life member Bob Saltzman asked the commissioners for permission to give a detailed report of the New Fire Station sub-committee of which he is a member. Bob gave the entire background on the prior failed bond vote back in 2006 and what measures have been taken since. Bob discussed the committee's progress in applying for the stimulus grant and gave special acknowledgement to Lt. James Vena and Chief Dale Lingenfelter who wrote the 39 page grant application. Bob also dispelled rumors that nothing has been done in relation to a new fire station. Designs, plans, implementation and community involvement were points discussed. Finally, Bob also discussed utilizing a process used in General Electric called "Failure Modes and Effects Analysis" and how it was applied to this project. He pointed out that with 175 man hours used the New Fire Station Committee concluded that a lack of communication on many levels lead to the last bond vote being defeated. The committee plans to remedy this problem and strive for another bond vote if we fail to secure a stimulus grant.

### **BILLS:**

Motion/ Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Nappi: To pay bills 2009 - 523 thru 2009 - 592 from September 10, 2009 through October 12, 2009 totaling \$63,377.59 as reviewed. Passed 4-0.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Treasurer John Splendido reviewed the financial report through September 30, 2009.
- John also reported that there are no significant changes compared to September 2008. We have used approximately 68% of the 2009 budget.  
Fuel charges are under budget due to last year's gasoline increases compared to this year's fuel rates.

Commissioner Bob Murray remarked that in Chief Lingenfelter's finance report, Dale asked to recognize the outstanding effort, personal time & commitment of Treasurer John Splendido in preparation of the 2010 budget and clearing up many financial records, payroll and accounts payable issues that existed prior to his appointment.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **FINANCE:**

- Chairman Woehrle discussed reminded everyone that the public budget meeting will be held on Tuesday October 20, 2009 at 7 pm in the commissioners meeting room at 1079 Balltown Rd. Niskayuna. Chairman Woehrle added that the proposed budget for 2010 stands at 3.83%. He thanked Treasurer Splendido and Chief Lingenfelter for their work.

**INSURANCE:** No Report.

#### **MEDIA RELATIONS:**

- Commissioner Woehrle reported that the annual Poster Contest program is under way. Each year the art department within the Niskayuna School District elementary schools provides the NFPA theme to each student and the students create posters reflecting that theme. This year's theme is "Stay Fire Smart". The program culminates with a school wide assembly hosted by fire department personnel to convey the importance of fire safety to the students.

**Chief Lingenfelter has requested authorization for the Treasurer to draft 4 checks in the amount of \$50.00 each, payable to the Art Departments of Hillside, Craig, St. Helen's, and Glenclyff Elementary Schools.** The checks are to offset the cost of materials used for creation of the posters. Budget line A3410.419B.

#### **APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT:**

According to Chief Lingenfelter's Report:

- The new ambulance project is still on track at this point for a December-January delivery Time frame.
- Preventive maintenance was completed on Truck 405's aerial device.
- A coolant leak has been repaired on A-942.
- All engines and the truck were pump tested on October 5, 2009. All tests conducted were passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SERVICES:** No Report.

#### **EMS & EQUIPMENT:**

According to Chief Lingenfelter's Report:

- **Chief Lingenfelter is requesting authorization to purchase a hose testing pump at a cost not to exceed \$2000.** The hose testing unit will facilitate testing of fire hose on a regular basis by duty personnel, will increase the level of safety during hose testing, and will reduce the wear and tear on fire apparatus pumps that are not designed to operate at the test pressures without a flow of water. Budget line A3410.23
- **Chief Lingenfelter is requesting authorization to purchase three heavy duty step ladders not to exceed a total of \$800.** The ladders will be carried on the 3 first due fire apparatus and will provide a safe mechanism to investigate smoke odors/utility issues within a structure where traditional fire ladders are too large and a step type ladder is needed. Budget line A3410.23

### **FACILITIES:**

- Chairman Woehrle reported that (3) three windows are in need of replacement. (1) one in the bunk room and (2) two in the day room. I have an estimate including labor of \$1,354.00.

### **ELECTIONS:**

- Commissioner Daly reported that there will be an election for (1) - five year term currently held by Dr. Weitz. The last day to submit a letter to the Fire District Secretary stating the intent to run for the term of Commissioner is November 18, 2009. The election will be held December 8, 2009 at The Balltown Rd. Fire Station from 6 – 9 pm.

### **PROTECTIVE GEAR & UNIFORMS:**

- Chairman Woehrle reported that the turn out gear which was on order has come in and will be issued after everything is inventoried.

### **SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM:** No Report.

**INSPECTION & INSTALLATION:** Chairman Woehrle discussed planning for the January 2010 Inspection and installation dinner. As was discussed last month, The Lighthouse Restaurant is being considered. With steady increases in the past 3 years for meals at The Mohawk Golf Club we are weighing the options.

### **NEW FIRE STATION:** Nothing further to report.

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEFS:**

#### **Chief Lingenfelter:**

- Captain Peter Barber will be recognized on October 13th, 2009 at the Schenectady County Legislature meeting for his selection as 2009 GBFC Firefighter of the Year.
- The Schenectady County Health Department expects to receive H1N1 vaccinations and make them available to EMS first responders. No details have been received as of this date regarding distribution however the county fire coordinator has been advised of our staff count. Clarification has been received from NYS DOH that our EMS providers are not required to receive the H1N1 or regular flu vaccinations however it is strongly recommended by the CDC and health department due to our high exposure potential. We have also increased our stock of N95 facemasks which provide some protection to our personnel.
- Firefighter's Tony Casso, Matt Bushnell, and Jeremy Rice completed the NYS OFPC Firefighter II training program on October 8, 2009.

- We have been notified by our diesel fuel supplier that they no longer hold the NYS contract for Schenectady County. Warex Terminals is the new supplier. We are in the process of establishing an account with them and ***I am requesting authorization from the board to enter into an agreement with Warex Terminals to provide diesel fuel to NFD 1 under the current NYS contract.***

**Department Activity:**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	
<b>September Incidents:</b>	143	188	
EMS	104	132	
Fire/Other	39	56	
<b>YTD Incidents:</b>	1346	1540	(9/30)

**Other Activities:**

Emergency Callback:	25 hours
Fire/EMS/Codes In-Service Training:	66 hours
Fire Company Drill:	32 hours

**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/ Daly, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Nappi: To allow expenditure of \$1,354.00 to replace (3) three windows including labor costs. Passed 4-0.

Motion/ Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Daly: To purchase a hose testing pump at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00. Passed 4-0.

Motion/ Daly, 2<sup>nd</sup>:/Murray: To purchase (3) three heavy duty step ladders at a cost not to exceed \$800.00. Passed 4-0.

Motion/ Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup>:/Daly: That the Treasurer draft (4) checks in the amount of \$50.00 each payable to the Art Department’s of Hillside, Craig, St. Helen’s and Glenclyff Elementary Schools. Passed 4-0.

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>:/Daly: To enter into agreement with WAREX TERMINALS to provide diesel fuel to Niskayuna Fire District No.1 under the current NYS contract. Passed 4-0.

Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup>:/Murray: To approve and add Dennis Plakas of 2045 Arkona Court, Niskayuna NY 12309 to The fire District/Fire Company roles. Passed 4-0.

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

Motion/ Nappi. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Murray: To adjourn to executive session at 7:50 pm. Passed 4-0.

Motion/ Nappi. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Weitz: To return to regular session at 8:31 pm. Passed 4-0.

Chairman Woehrle stated that in regard to Retired Captain Frank Rota, the situation has been addressed as follows:

- Commissioner Nappi will draft and send a letter to Cpt. Rota.
- Chairman Woehrle will contact Capital Financial about re-instating Captain Rota.
- Attorney Hayner will send a follow-up letter to Capital Financial.

Motion/ Nappi. 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Daly: To adjourn at 9:39 pm. Passed 4-0.

**The next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*William J. Versocki*

Secretary