

## Minutes of Regular Meeting November 13, 2013

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**PRESENT:** Commissioners Murray, Nappi, Daly and Chairman Woehrle.

**Also Present:** Treasurer Splendido, Secretary Versocki, Attorney Hayner  
Chief Lingenfelter, Chief Dietrich, FF/P J. Baker, Dr. McHugh  
D. Baker, Cpt. T. Congdon & Cpt. J. Vena.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Woehrle.

**Motion/Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nappi:** To approve the minutes of the October 9, 2013 regular monthly meeting as read. Passed 4-0.

**Motion/ Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup> Daly:** To approve the minutes of the October 15, 2013 budget hearing minutes as read. Passed 4-0.

**Motion/ Nappi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Murray:** To approve the minutes of the October 15, 2013 adopting the 2014 Fire District budget. Passed 4-0.

**Motion/ Daly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Murray:** To approve the reconsidered adoption of the 2014 Fire District Budget and meeting minutes held on October 24, 2013. Passed 4-0.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A copy of the Fire District Affairs Bulletin for October-November 2013.
- A letter from Scatub Insurance Agency requesting a meeting to do insurance comparisons.
- A letter from The Principal of Hillside Elementary School thanking The Fire District for sharing fire safety tips with students and for helping support the \$50 donation to their art department.
- A letter from Dean Romano of Rotterdam EMS stating upgrades to the level of services s provided. They ask the district to acknowledge these upgrades and suggest revising our mutual aid plans.
- A letter from The GBFC asking the commissioners to approve probationary member Sean Hanna of 1273 Pembroke Ct. Niskayuna, NY 12309 as a firefighter/EMS member pending the outcome of a physical and arson background check.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:** No Report.

**BILLS:** Commissioner Woehrle stated that he has reviewed all the bills.

**Motion/ Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Daly:** To pay bills for corresponding check #'s 13635 -13679  
From October 10, 2013 thru November 13, 2013 totaling \$66,879.15 as reviewed. Passed 4-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**Treasurer Splendido Reported:**

- The reserve accounts were reviewed.
- The comparison sheets for October 2012 vs.2013 were reviewed.
- Budget versus actual expenses through October 2013 were reviewed. We are 83% through the year and have spent 87.8% of the budget.
- I recommend that a Health Care meeting be set up for changes in 2015. These changes include but are not limited to affordable care.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**Attorney Hayner Reported:**

- In regard to language pertaining to non citizens, 2 changes are needed. (1) Deletion of "citizen" and (2) deletion of "have no criminal record" revising paragraph 1 on page 4.
  1. With respect to a non citizen, an individual could be a "non citizen national" who relates to birth in American Samoa and certain former Trust Territory of the Pacific Island and certain children of non-citizen nationals born abroad. A lawful permanent resident is by definition is an individual who resides in the US with a legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. (A green card holder).
  2. Regarding the "criminal record", you cannot discriminate against an individual based upon a criminal conviction. However, section 176-b (16) of the town law dealing with volunteer members of the fire district companies states that "a person who has been convicted of arson in and degree shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed as a volunteer member of a fire company".

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:**

**Commissioner Murray Reported:**

- The budget passed and with the exception of an article in The Gazette there has been no feedback.

**INSURANCE:** No Report.

**MEDIA RELATIONS:** No Report.

**APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT:**

**Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- Front tires on A941 had belts out of place and required replacement.

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

**EMS & EQUIPMENT:**

**Commissioner Nappi Reported:**

- The AED's which were pulled out of service because of expired pads are all back in service.

**Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- Gas powered portable pumps have been serviced.

**HEALTH & SAFETY:**

**Commissioner Daly Reported:**

- I recently took the CPR course offered by the district. I was very impressed with Instructor Nick Persons who did a great job with his presentation and help with skills.

**FACILITIES:**

**Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- All quotes for camera systems have been obtained. Based on pricing, equipment and comparison, warranty and service experience my recommendation is as follows:
  - Balltown Rd. station - \$13,712.00 from Northeast Information Systems. (Funds to be taken from Renovation/Addition budget).
  - River Rd. station – 4,767.00 from Northeast Information Systems. (Facility Maintenance Budget Line).
- Landscaping in the memorial park has been completed.
- Comali has addressed the remaining issues from their warranty punch list for electrical and lighting issues with the new station.
- Owens Corning representative has been contacted regarding the roof issues. We are awaiting a response.

**ELECTIONS:**

**Secretary Versocki Reported:**

- To this date 2 district residents have sent letters asking to be included on the ballot for Fire District Commissioner. They are:
  - **Dan Baker of 928 Meadow Lane Niskayuna Fire District No. 1 resident.**
  - **Tom Nappi of 8 Ray Street Niskayuna Fire District No. 1 resident.**

**PROTECTIVE GEAR & UNIFORMS:**

**Commissioner Daly Reported:**

- Bunker gear is in good shape although incremental purchases need to be made. Additionally, dress uniform purchases will be upcoming.

**SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM:** No Report.

**INSPECTION & INSTALLATION:**

**Commissioner Woehrle Reported:**

- The date of the Inspection and dinner will be Saturday January 25, 2014.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEFS:**

**Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- The scene support class originally scheduled for October was cancelled due to lack of enrollment. We are looking at running the program in house as we have at least two members who need the training.
- Volunteer Firefighters Andrew Patz, Adam King, Jonathan Warzack, Bradley Nethaway, and CJ Kuhlmeier completed the firefighter I training program last week.
- Flex spending enrollment forms have been distributed to the career personnel and are due back on 11/27/13.
- Recommend canceling the Citgo gas account as it is no longer needed. Wex account works in Citgo stations and has been working well.
- Notification was received from Rotterdam EMS that they are in the process of upgrading their level of EMS service to Paramedic from Basic EMT. Their request was subsequently approved by the regional Medical Advisory Committee.
- Recommend discontinuing the newspaper deliver to the River Road station.
- I am requesting authorization for Captain Congdon to attend the Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis from April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – April 12<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$2130.00 including registration, air fare, lodging, and meals. Conference attendance request form has been submitted and costs are budgeted.
- I participated in a table top exercise at the Jewish Community Center with Niskayuna Police Department and JCC staff.
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**Chief Dietrich Reported:**

- With the addition of new members, daily operations have improved. Training has been going well also with Captains Vena and Congdon being instrumental in the process.

• Department Activity	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
October Incidents	187	144
EMS	124	100
Fire/Other	63	44
YTD Incidents	1684	1478 (10/31)

**Report of the Niskayuna Permanent Fireman's Association:**

**Captain J. Vena Reported:**

- We will again be supporting the Toys for Tots drive this year by filling Truck 405 with toys for the program. The event is on November 30<sup>th</sup> in front of LT's Grill on Balltown Road.

## **Report of the Grand Boulevard Fire Company:**

### **President J. Baker Reported:**

- We are in the process of modifying our bylaws to allow non citizens to apply.

### **OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion/ Murray, Second/ Nappi:** To discontinuing the Gazette newspaper delivery to the River Road station. Passed 4-0.

**Motion/ Murray, Second/ Nappi:** To cancel the Citgo gas account as it is no longer needed. Wex account works in Citgo stations and has been working well. Passed 4-0.

**Motion/ Daly, Second/ Nappi:** To install security cameras at The Balltown Rd. station at a cost of \$13,712.00 from Northeast Information Systems. (Funds to be taken from Renovation/Addition budget).

### **The Secretary Called The Roll:**

**Commissioner Murray – Yes**

**Commissioner Nappi – Yes**

**Commissioner Daly – Yes**

**Commissioner Weitz – Absent**

**Commissioner Woehrle – Abstained      Motion Passed 3-0-1.**

**Motion/ Daly, Second/ Nappi:** To install security cameras at The River Rd. station at a cost of \$4,767.00 from Northeast Information Systems. (Funds taken from Facility Maintenance Budget Line).

### **The Secretary Called The Roll:**

**Commissioner Murray – Yes**

**Commissioner Nappi – Yes**

**Commissioner Daly – Yes**

**Commissioner Weitz – Absent**

**Commissioner Woehrle – Abstained      Motion Passed 3-0-1.**

**Motion/ Daly, Second/ Murray:** To authorize Captain Congdon to attend the Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis from April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – April 12<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$2130.00 including registration, air fare, lodging, and meals. Passed 4-0.

**Motion/ Murray, Second/ Nappi:** To approve Sean Hanna of 1273 Pembroke Court Niskayuna, NY 12309 as a probationary firefighter/EMS member of The Grand Blvd. Fire Co. pending the results of a physical and arson background check. Passed 4-0.

**Motion/ Nappi, Second/ Daly:** To approve the language below for "Non Citizens". Passed 4-0.

- In regard to language pertaining to non citizens, 2 changes are needed. (1) Deletion of "citizen" and (2) deletion of "have no criminal record" revising paragraph 1 on page 4.

1. With respect to a non citizen, an individual could be a “non citizen national” who relates to birth in American Samoa and certain former Trust Territory of the Pacific Island and certain children of non-citizen nationals born abroad. A lawful permanent resident is by definition is an individual who resides in the US with a legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. (A green card holder).
2. Regarding the “criminal record”, you cannot discriminate against an individual based upon a criminal conviction. However, section 176-b (16) of the town law dealing with volunteer members of the fire district companies states that “a person who has been convicted of arson in and degree shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed as a volunteer member of a fire company”.

**Commissioner Woehrle** requested that the Secretary send a letter to The Grand Blvd. fire Co. stating that they have revised the eligibility for Fire Company membership and advise the Fire Company to revise their Bylaws. Suitable language has been drafted by Attorney Hayner and reads as follows:

Candidates for membership in The Grand Boulevard Fire Company must show proof that they are at least 18 years of age and either a citizen, a non-citizen or lawful permanent resident of The United States. They must hold a high school diploma or equivalent. They must pass a medical examination, drug screening, agility test and arson background check. They must also possess a valid driver's license and have not been convicted of arson in any degree. Upon election to membership by The GBFC, their names are forwarded to The Board of Fire Commissioners for approval.

**Motion/ Nappi, Second/ Daly:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Passed 4-0.

**The commissioner election will be held Tuesday December 10, 2013 from 6-9 p.m.**

**The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday December 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*William J. Versocki*

Fire District No. 1 Secretary