

## Minutes of Regular Meeting May 16, 2017

---

---

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

**Also Present:** Chief Lingenfelter, Chief Dietrich, Treasurer Splendido, Secretary Versocki, FF/P Persons, FF/P Wessels, Katrina Pacheco, David Pacheco, FF D. Elliott, FF Fritz, FF McGill Chief Luft and Captain J. Vena.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Woehrle.

**Motion/ Daly, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Nappi:** To approve the April 12, 2017 monthly meeting minutes as read.  
Passed 5-0.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A letter from The Grand Blvd. Fire Company requesting their participation & usage of The Fire Prevention Trailer and Car 428 from June 16-18, 2017 for the HVVFFA. They also request use of Engine 402 on June 17, 2017 for the HVVFFA dress parade in Queensbury, NY.
- A letter from The Grand Blvd. Fire Company reporting accepting an application for membership from Daquan Pontoon of 941 University Place Schenectady, NY 12308 as a probationary firefighter member. They ask that the commissioners accept this candidate pending the successful outcome of a complete physical, sexual predator and arson background checks.
- A letter from The Compass Company offering consulting as an independent insurance advisor.
- A letter & DB 120 Disability Coverage certificate from The Guardian Insurance Company.
- A thank you note for medical services during an auto accident from Sondra Stephens & Michael Durand of 1452 Wendell Ave. Schenectady, NY 12308.
- A thank you note for medical services on March 27, 2017 from Mary Ferris of 1200 Hillside Ave. Niskayuna, NY 12309.
- A thank you note and check for \$200.00 for medical services on March 14, 2017 from Thomas & Patricia Varno of 1036 Vrooman Ave. Niskayuna, NY 12309.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:** Niskayuna Resident Daniel Elliott; residing on 2213 Garden Drive & current firefighter with more than 25 years of service with The Grand Blvd. Fire Company asked to speak about the old Engine currently out of service as result of a new Engine purchase. He stated that there is an opportunity for the district to keep this engine as a spare to help prevent a loss of equipment due to maintenance, breakdowns and training needs.

Mr. Elliott also spoke about the proposal to sell the old 1996 Pumper and gave an example of a similar Engine recently being sold for approximately \$5,000.00 at auction. Given that figure as a price for the old engine it would be more practical to keep it and utilize it when needed. Mr. Elliott went one to say with more developments being added on the north end of town and a more dense population; utilization could provide added security of firefighting to this area. The district is tasked with supplying equipment for the safety and security to Fire District No. 1. There have been times, due to breakdowns, maintenance etc. where firefighters have been available to respond to fire calls; and the only means of

response has been a pick-up truck. This is not a suitable piece of firefighting apparatus, nor is it capable to suppress a fire.

**Commissioner Woehrle asked to continue this discussion under new business.**

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

**Motion/ Daly, 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Weitz:** To pay bills for corresponding check #'s 15693 – 15699 & 15700 - 15726 From April 13, 2017 thru May 10, 2017 totaling \$69,814.38 as reviewed. Passed 5-0.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

### **Treasurer Splendido Reported:**

- The reserve accounts as of the end of April were reviewed.
- The comparison sheets for April 2017 vs.2016 were reviewed.
- Budget versus actual expenses through April 2017 were reviewed. We are 33% thru the year and have spent 38% of the budget. (The percentage is higher due to top loading entries).

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** No Report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **FINANCE:**

#### **Commissioner Murray Reported:**

- We should begin to work on the 2018 Budget.

**INSURANCE:** No Report.

## **MEDIA RELATIONS:**

### **Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- In the latest copy of "Your Niskayuna" there was an article about the nationwide Heroin epidemic and the medication Narcam and the potential use.
- Planning for Niska-day on May 20 continues. We are working on getting staffing to cover the events.

## **APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT:**

### **Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- The new engine 401 continues to be well received. Minor issues are being addressed as they are identified.
- Requests for purchase offers on the old engine have been sent out. We have contacted these vendors and are awaiting a response. Estimated cost of keeping old engine is attached, however the Chiefs are recommending it be declared surplus and sold.
- Aerial and ground ladder testing was completed on May 5<sup>th</sup>. There is one issue that will need to be addressed with the aerial before it can be re-certified. It is an adjustment that is needed to bring the

aerial into manufacturer specifications and poses no safety issue at this time. Garrison has been contacted and the truck remains in full service.

### **COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SERVICES:**

#### **Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- Channel # 11 is up and working. We have some portable radios which are 10 plus years old that are near or at the end of their life expectancy.

**EMS & EQUIPMENT:** No Report.

**HEALTH & FITNESS:** No Report.

### **FACILITIES:**

#### **Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- Installation of replacement windows at The River Rd station is nearly completed. One window was not properly sized. It is currently boarded and awaiting replacement arrival.

#### **Commissioner Woehrle Reported:**

- On Friday Precision will finish installing flashing and caulking.
- Chief Lingenfelter, Katrina Pacheco and I have selected the colors and paint for application.
- I sent an e-mail to The Schenectady County Deputy Sheriff about having inmates paint the bay at the River Rd. station and that work will commence on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ELECTIONS:** No Report.

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

#### **Commissioner Daly Reported:**

- Everything is on target.

### **SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM:**

#### **Commissioner Weitz Reported:**

- I am happy to announce Bob Kordrupel will be replacing Lou Solano as the LOSAP Trustee beginning in 2018.

**INSPECTION & INSTALLATION:** The date of the installation dinner will be January 27, 2018.

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

#### **Chief Lingenfelter Reported:**

- We received reimbursement from Northeastern Rescue Vehicles for exhaust relocation and AC system charging on A-940.
- 3 SCBA cylinders have been ordered, some of our current cylinders will reach the end of their service life at the end of June.

- The Pedal, Paddle and Run event was held Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>. Two rowers were pulled from the water by responders. Otherwise the day was uneventful.
- EMS standby crews are being scheduled for the annual Niskayuna Soccer Tournament the weekend of June 3<sup>rd</sup> which entails coverage for approximately 16 hours of the event.
- I am requesting authorization to pursue the hiring of a Firefighter/Paramedic as budgeted to minimize the impact of our staffing shortage on the safety of our community, our firefighters and to comply with the OSHA minimum 2 in – 2 out staffing requirement for initiating a structure fire attack.

Chief Lingenfelter provided the Board of Fire Commissioners with a power point overview for the addition of a career Firefighter/Paramedic. Some key points included:

- Mission Statement & Vision Statement – Re-Focus why we are here and who we serve.
- Current Services provided.
- Fire District personnel resources – 5 volunteer interior firefighters in department. This is a nationwide trend.
- Operational Standards by OSHA & PESH.
- Increased property development- both residential and commercial.
- Decrease in volunteer staffing availability.

The staffing proposal is – Hire 1 FF/P; change current weekday schedule to a 12 hour daytime shift  
Create a 12/7 schedule for 2 FF/P covering 8:00 am to 8:00 pm 7 days per week.

The timing for deciding on hiring a new career FF/P – The new civil service test results are due out mid-May/June; other agencies are looking to hire; previous lists were depleted rapidly and a goal to have new hire begin academy in August.

**Chief Dietrich Reported:**

- Call volume is increasing and the new Urgent Care on Union Street produces an average of 4 calls per week.
- Since there is no training facility in Schenectady County we are doing our training at The Colonie Facility.

Department Activity	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
April Incidents	170	171
EMS	124	117
Fire/Other	46	54
Total Incidents	648	425 (4/30 YTD)
Other Activities:		
Emergency Callback		7 Staff Hours
Department Training		133 Staff Hours

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Continued discussion to keep or sell the old Engine.

**Chief Lingenfelter -**

- Estimates to equip and maintain as well as insurance outweigh keeping Engine.
- The number of times The River Rd. station was without an Engine to respond to calls was about 10 calls in a year.
- Although firefighters utilized a pick-up truck for response, when arriving on scene they were very much needed & used with the engine company already on scene.
- There is no remarkable time difference between response coming from River Rd. and Balltown Rd.
- Chiefs Dietrich, Luft and I are in agreement that the spare engine is not feasible and should be deemed surplus and sold.

**Commissioner Murray -**

**Before making my decision I would like to know what The Grand Blvd. Fire Company has to say about this issue before a cast a vote either way.**

**Commissioner Nappi –**

- I believe there is value to having a reserve engine therefore the engine should be kept.

**Commissioner Daly –**

- I have a problem keeping the old engine when we have told the residents we needed to replace it with a \$550,000.00 new model.

**Commissioner Weitz –**

- If the chief officers have agreed that is not prudent to keep a reserve engine then I would go with their decision.

**Commissioner Woehrle –**

- I would agree with the Chiefs recommendation.

**Chairman Woehrle proposed waiting 1 month to hear from The Fire Company before voting on the issue. They asked Chief Lingenfelter to give the fire company the same information as presented in this meeting.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion/ Weitz, Second/ Murray: To accept Daquan Pontoon of 941 University Place Schenectady, NY 12308 as a probationary firefighter member pending the successful outcome of a complete physical, sexual predator and arson background checks. Passed 4-0.**

**Motion/ Nappi, Second/ Murray: To authorize The Grand Blvd. Fire Company members to participate in the HVVFFA from June 16-18, 2017. Passed 5-0.**

**Motion/ Nappi, Second/ Daly:** To authorize The Grand Blvd. Fire Company usage of The Fire Prevention Trailer and Car 428 from June 16-18, 2017 for the HVVFFA and use of Engine 402 on June 17, 2017 for the HVVFFA dress parade in Queensbury, NY Passed 5-0.

Commissioner Woehrle reported having attended the NYS Association of Fire Districts dinner. Skip, from the Fire Service Moving forward committee spoke his high praise for Chief Lingenfelter's outstanding job at the State Level.

Chief Lingenfelter Reported that The NPFA supports the new hire and 8 am to 8 pm shift. The staffing idea came from Captain Congdon and Captain Vena.

**Motion/ Nappi, Second/ Murray:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Passed 5-0.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*William J. Versocki*

Fire District No. 1 Secretary