



HOPKINTON FIRE DISTRICT
2876 State Highway 11B
Hopkinton, New York 12965
(315) 328-4682

Commissioners Meeting – January 12, 2012

Present: Frank Barney, Gerald Goldsworth, Mike Opal, Dale Nicholson, Jim Hollenbeck, Sue Wood

Guest: Ben Wood, Ernie Wood, Jake Hollenbeck, Steve Parker, Greg Crump

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chairman Frank Barney. Addition to the agenda included oath of office by Dale Nicholson. Dale Nicholson (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion to accept the agenda as revised. All in favor; motion carried.

Privilege of floor – Ernest Wood reported that Ron Streeter, Ben Wood and he worked on ETA44 and found the leak. The value was taken off and he will take to Northern Fire Equipment to have it rebuilt. The area has been capped off so the truck can still be used. The hose washer was missing a few items so this was taken to the dump. The nozzles from the new pressure washer are missing.

Dale Nicholson (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 8 meeting. All in favor; motion carried. Jim Hollenbeck (Dale Nicholson) made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 29 meeting. All in favor; motion carried.

The following bills were presented for payment:

- Lamphere Trucking & General Repair \$497.31
- Nicholville Telephone Co. \$ 63.71
- Overhead Door Co. of Massena \$ 21.00
- Wilber’s Hardware \$ 32.76

Mike Opal (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion to approve payment of the claims. All in favor; motion carried.

Sue Wood presented the financial report for January. There was a \$20,970.65 starting balance. After payment of the January claims, there will be a balance of \$20,355.87. Gerald Goldsworth (Dale Nicholson) made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. All in favor; motion carried.

Chief's Report (reported by Jim Hollenbeck due to absence of Ron Streeter) The valve on ETA44 was taken apart and sent to Northern Fire for repair. ETA44 still needs the packing tightened. Ernie and Ben Wood washed E61 and E41. Bun Smith, Shawn and Ron Streeter cleaned out the backroom. Shawn also cleaned the flies from the lights, windows and mopped the floor. A bracket was made for the rakes above the door. The old radios and old gear have been removed. Pat Pearl needs a turnout coat as nothing in inventory fits him. A letter needs to be sent to Matt Austin requesting the return of his gear. Ryan Sullivan was voted in as a RAM member. There was one chimney fire with 12 members attending. A log of the calls for the year and the miles have been completed. Ron will be doing more cleanup as time allows. The door gasket has been received and this will be installed soon. Dale Nicholson (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion to accept the chief's report. All in favor; motion carried.

New Business Dale Nicholson was sworn in on January 4, 2012 through the Town Clerk for his five year term as fire commissioner. A copy was given for the files.

Dale Nicholson took this time to express some concerns he has with things that have happened in the past. These items included:

- Antagonism between the directors and the Department is unacceptable. Commissioners are responsible for setting the tone and it needs to be positive.
- Do not whine about the fire department members, about the work they do or don't do, when they do or don't show up. The chiefs are responsible for this.
- Do not mock fire department members, call them names, swear at them or be otherwise disrespectful.
- Speak clearly. Do not turn your head and mumble amongst yourselves.
- If you have something to say, say it nicely.
- Do not conduct business outside of public meetings.
- This is not an opportunity to micromanage the chiefs; they were elected to run the department.
- We have to be smart about how we spend our money but that doesn't mean we should hoard it. Our community expects a functioning department with working equipment and up-to-date tools.
- This is 2012, not 1970. Do not fight against new things.
- Department members used to feel they were part of something good. Now they feel like everything they do is wrong. This needs to be fixed.

Frank Barney questioned the micromanaging and asked for specific examples. Examples include where the members were hanging their gear, trucks not being able to be taken out, etc. Frank stated that some of the commissioners are also directors and it is their responsibility to oversee this. The chief's also need to know where the trucks are. The trucks can be taken out but need to be logged in as training. Members taking trucks to parades need to get prior approval, especially if going out of the district.

Gerald Goldsworth (Mike Opal) made a motion to purchase a comparable coat for Pat Pearl if there is nothing available in inventory for him. All in favor; motion carried. Greg Crump suggested that if a current interior coat fit Pat, then a new coat should be purchased for an interior person. Jake Hollenbeck will follow up on this. It is the chief's responsibility to place any orders.

Old Business A memo needs to be written to the town board requesting shared services for the 2012 year. Dale Nicholson (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion to send a memo and to state that any equipment used must be by a current firemen with the appropriate training. All in favor; motion carried.

Mike Opal (Dale Nicholson) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sue Wood, Secretary