

**WEST OSS�PEE FIRE PRECINCT  
Annual Precinct Meeting – April 26, 2008**

Minutes Recorded By: Mellisa Ferland, Secretary/Treasurer  
Meeting Called to Order: Stanley Brothers, Moderator (10:15 a.m.)  
Attendance: 9

**ARTICLE I – Election of Officers**

By majority voice vote, Henry Ela was elected to a three-year term as precinct commissioner, and incumbent Stanley Brothers was elected to a one-year term as moderator, Ray Boutin was elected to one-year term as auditor. There were no candidates for the secretary/treasurer position. Current secretary/treasurer Mellisa Ferland of Effingham was appointed to the position by commissioners following the meeting.

**ARTICLE II – Operating Budget**

By majority voice vote, the following budget line items were passed:

4130- Executive	\$9,500
4194- Government Buildings	\$14,000
4196- Insurance	\$41,350
4220- Fire	\$254,875
4316- Street Lighting	\$3,200
4902- Capital Outlay	\$15,500

Chief Brad Eldridge said the main increases in the budget are for rising fuel costs and insurance costs.

Deb Eldridge asked how maintenance and improvements to the central station could be funded. Chief Eldridge said this money is contained in the Government Buildings line. He said he would like an office area created in the top floor that can be locked.

**ARTICLE III – 10-year lease to construct station at Jewell Hill**

By majority voice vote, the following article passed: "To see if the precinct will vote to enter into a 10-year lease purchase agreement for \$315,000 for the purpose of building a fire station on Jewell Hill Road and appropriate the sum of \$19,850 for the first year's payment. This lease has an escape clause."

Chief Eldridge said the building committee had initially recommended constructing a 100'x80' or 80'x80' steel building. With the rising steel costs, the committee is also looking into estimates to construct a stick-built station. Currently equipment is being stored at a loaned space on the former Yield House property. There is no heat in that building. A new station would provide a larger space to store all equipment that will not fit in the central station and allow space for vehicle maintenance. The building will need a septic system. There will be no office space. The building will be single story with no second floor.

A boundary line adjustment agreement will need to be completed with New England Forestry Foundation. Mellisa Ferland has contact Cy Balch and NE Forestry who will

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likely visit the site in May. Chief Eldridge said the interest rates for leases are very favorable right now and it is likely the rate will be 4.25% or better.

**ARTICLE IV:** To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

Chief Eldridge thanked all in attendance at today's meeting and the community and firefighter's families for the support shown over the past year. He reported there were no firefighter injuries this year. He reported a unit citation and lifesaving award was given to Chris Tozier and Ted Call following a rescue in the Bearcamp River.

Commissioner Jay said that he and Commissioner Goss (who could not be present today) discussed the proposal to add a part-time secretary position. He said they were not in favor of adding a new position without it going through the regular budget process. There was discussion about the job description for this secretary position. The person would be responsible for assisting the auditor, writing grants/fundraisers, completing a department inventory, developing personnel policies and procedures including job descriptions, attending employer trainings, etc.

Chris Tozier said with all employer regulations changing every year, someone should be assigned to keep track of this.

It was recommended that the Chief change the scope of a firefighter position to include the above duties rather than creating a new position. This will hold for the remainder of 2008, giving time for Commissioners to develop a budget and/or recommendation for this position for the 2009 budget cycle.

Deb Eldridge suggested the Commissioners hold regular monthly meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 10:39am

Precinct Commissioners:

\_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Goss

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Jay

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly Eldridge