

**West Ossipee Fire Precinct Meeting
January 10, 2009**

Commissioners Present: Paul Jay, Joseph Goss, Henry Ela
Minutes Taken By: Marilyn Bolduc
Moderator: Stanley Brothers
Precinct Attorney: Susan Slack

The Precinct meeting was called to order by Moderator S. Brothers at 10:13 am.

Article I: The following people were elected by unanimous votes:

Commissioner for 3 years: Paul Jay
Clerk for 1 year: Marilyn Bolduc
Treasurer for 1 year: Raymond Boutin
Moderator for 1 year: Stanley Brothers

Article II: Discussion of the article: Jim Burke - What would be the additional cost to the tax rate? It would add an additional 2.781 cents/\$1,000.00 of evaluation. For property owners living outside of a 1 mile radius of the fire stations, they will see an additional \$96.00 to \$112.00 in insurance costs.

Wayne Richards - Will both the Jewell Hill and the West Ossipee station stay open? Yes, they would.

Debbie Eldridge - The Jewell Hill station will be a garage to house equipment that doesn't fit in the West Ossipee station.

Joe Goss - Right now the extra equipment is stored in a building that belongs to Mark McConkey. This will not be viable solution for much longer.

Chief B. Eldridge - The new building will hold support vehicles and equipment, the forestry truck and a pump truck. It will have ADA approved men's and women's bathrooms with showers and lockers, and will have an extractor system to wash turnout gear. The extractor system is necessary due to the amount of unidentified hazardous material that contaminates the firefighters' gear at a fire. At the present time, the firefighters clean their gear at home; exposing their families to unidentified contaminates.

Barbara Richards - Is the land owned by the Town? J. Goss - No, the land is owned by the West Ossipee Fire Precinct. There was an easement over the property. This easement has been removed by making boundary line adjustments with the neighboring land owner 4-5 years ago. The property is now clear of any easements.

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Walter Brown - Will the pump truck stay at Jewell Hill station. P. Jay - Yes, it will.

Jim Burke - On my tax bill, how does the West Ossipee Fire Precinct tax rate compare to the rest of the Town? Brenda Cullen (serves on the Ossipee Budget Committee) - The highest fire precinct tax rate is Center Ossipee and the lowest is Ossipee Corner. West Ossipee is in the middle. The Precinct tax rate is set by the State and is based on the property values within the Precinct.

Barbara Richards - Is the new station being built with elbow room for the future? Chief Eldridge - Yes. It will have 6 bays with 5 bays housing two vehicles each. It can be further upgraded in the future as the need arises. The demand for service increases every year. P. Jay - Planning on the building started 5 years ago and in earnest 3 years ago. We wanted to get it right. The economy was getting tight even back then. There will be no kitchen or offices in the building. We'd have to put in a sprinkler system at the cost of around \$80,000.00 if there were offices, a meeting room or a kitchen.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on Article II as read. The motion passed unanimously. Moderator S. Brothers instructed that once the vote was declared open, the poles had to be kept open for one hour by law. The voting was declared open at 10:37am.

A motion was made and seconded to take a 10 minute break. Passed unanimously.

Moderator S. Brothers called the meeting back to order at 10:58am.

Article III J. Goss made a motion to table Article III until after the ballots from Article II were counted. Some of the line items in Article III pertained to Article II and the outcome of the vote would change these line items. Passed unanimously.

Article IV A motion was made and seconded to vote on the article as read. Passed unanimously.

Article V A motion was made and seconded to vote on the article as read. Passed unanimously.

Article VI A motion was made and seconded to vote on the article as read. J. Goss explained that passing this article the voters would allow the Commissioners to get a tax anticipation note continuously year after year until the voters voted on an article to rescind the vote. Each year an article allowing the Commissioners to get tax anticipation note is on the warrant. By passing this article, the voters would not have to vote on it every year. The IRS tells the Precinct what it is allowed to raise in note. Passed unanimously.

Article VII A motion was made and seconded to table the article until the ballots from the Article II voting were counted. The motion and second were withdrawn. Precinct Attorney, Susan Slack was asked for the proper wording of Article VII so the voters could vote on the article and it wouldn't have to be tabled. She advised the wording of Article VII be changed to read: "To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate (Fifty Thousand Dollars) \$50,000 for the purchase and installation of an exhaust system to be funded by a grant with no money raised through taxation. If a grant is not received, this article will be null and void. (Majority vote required)".

A motion was made and seconded to vote on Article VII as amended. Passed unanimously.

Article VIII A motion was made and seconded to amend the article to read as follows: "To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate (Eleven Thousand Dollars) \$11,000 for the purchase and installation of a generator to be funded by a grant with no money to be raised through taxation. If a grant is not received, this article will be null and void. (Majority vote required)". The article passed as amended unanimously.

Article IX A motion was made and seconded to vote on the article as written. Chief Eldridge explained that the extractor is a washing machine for firefighter's turnout gear. The one that has been chosen would hold 3-4 sets of gear. Passed unanimously.

Article X Moderator S. Brothers opened the floor to other business. Chief Eldridge gave his report for the year 2008. Lt. Tucker is back on board from Iraq. Four firefighters have completed the Level 2 Firefighter Course. Two men are presently taking the Level 3 Firefighter Course; and four to five men will be going to the Level 1 Training Course in March/April. He thanked the taxpayers for their continued support.

Calls for Service in 2008 were as follows:

61	Medical Assistance
25	Mutual Aid
13	Forest Fires
26	Motor Vehicle Accidents
18	Building Collapse
8	Fire Alarm Activation
3	Chimney Fires
5	Welfare Checks
20	Building Fires including Mutual Aid Building Fires

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0 Reportable Injuries to Firefighters
0 Reportable Damage to Equipment

P. Jay reported that the Commissioners are now meeting twice a month. Due to past communication issues, all communications with the State are now in writing and sent registered mail. Notices are posted five days in advance at the Jewell Hill Station and the West Ossipee Station. Notices have been posted at the West Ossipee Post Office, but there has been a problem with the notices being removed. Law requires that the notices be posted in two places within the Precinct.

Construction on the Jewell Hill Station will start immediately if Article II passes and should be completed by the summer. There will be no paved driveway for awhile as the price is prohibitive. Soil tests were done prior to construction to insure that there would be no problems with the building warranty.

The West Ossipee Firefighter's Association has started up again and needs the citizens of the Precinct to support their efforts.

Barbara Richards said she would like to commend all of the firefighters for a job well done and appreciated their good service.

The Commissioners said that deep cuts were made when designing the Jewell Hill Station. They kept the building costs as low as possible. The building is such that it can be modified to meet future needs. The requests for bids on the heating system were sent out twice to get the best bid. It has been decided to go with a propane system over an oil system. Initially, the system will cost more to install, but over time the operating costs will be less. It is a radiant floor system and the aprons outside the bay doors will be heated to prevent ice build up. There has also been a donation to help with the construction of the station. Brian Streeter has donated the well in memory of his son, Hunter.

Barbara Richards asked for better communication regarding the dates of the Commissioners' meetings and the Precinct meetings. P. Jay said that putting a notice in the Conway Daily Sun is \$65 per notice. Notices are posted at each station five days in advance of the meeting. It was suggested to put a notice on the Town web site.

At 11:35am, a motion was made and seconded to take a 15 minute break. Passed unanimously.

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At 11:37am, Moderator S. Brothers declared that voting on Article II was now closed and ballots were counted.

At 11:50am, Moderator S. Brothers call the meeting back to order.

There are 307 registered voters in the West Ossipee Fire Precinct. Moderator S. Brothers announced the results of the Article II vote. Thirty-one votes were cast; 27 Yes, 4 No. Moderator S. Brothers declared that Article II had passed.

Moderator S. Brothers went back to the tabled Article III. A motion was made and seconded to pass the article as read. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by Moderator S. Brothers at 11:54am.

Minutes Approved

1/17/09
Date


Commissioner Joseph Goss


Commissioner Henry Ela


Commissioner Paul Jay

Marilyn R. Bulduc, Clerk