

EAST BLOOMFFIELD-HOLCOMB FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

District History for 1966-1985

The East Bloomfield fire protection contract was due and the commissioners voted to increase the cost from \$1000 to \$1500 due to the increase in expenses. It remained at \$1000. Voted to install a telephone alerting system through the Local Seneca-Gorham Telephone Company. Purchased a smoke ejector for \$174.50. In the fall of 1964, the commissioners voted to purchase an 8-unit Plectron chief receivers and other supporting equipment for \$930. Started discussion on an addition to the firehouse. Proposed budget for 1965 of \$8850. At the end of 1964 the treasurer reported that there was \$280.62 in the operating budget, \$4702.43 in the equipment reserve fund and \$5100 in the Building and Improvement Fund.

The fire siren remotely controlled from Canandaigua was approved with the installation of a new and louder Federal Siren. The commissioners installed a light in the parking lot to discourage drag racing at night. The Plectron system was working so well, an additional 6 units were purchased. Vern Blodgett was elected fire commissioner for a 5-year term a Ken Boylan was re-elected as treasurer. At the end of 1965 there was an operating budget of \$1381.23 with \$4840.41 in the Equipment Reserve Fund and \$8304 in the Building and Improvement Fund. Proposed a budget of \$9850 for 1966.

Voted to have Mr. Robert Jones, Architect draw up plans for a 3-bay addition to the firehouse. A resolution was adopted to finance up to \$26,000 for the new addition to the building. They actually borrowed \$17,000 in a 5-year bond for the addition. Proposed an increase in the Town of East Bloomfield fire protection contract from \$1000 to \$1500. Once again in July of 1966, the Town of East Bloomfield proposed building a town hall on the eastern portion of the fire district property. The proposal was for the district to deed over a parcel of the property to the town and the town would in return clean off the balance of the fire district property and enlarge the parking lot. The building would not exceed 50 feet in width. It was passed and then rescinded in October, 1966. The commissioners held a special election to transfer 50 feet by 100 feet parcel of land the Town of East Bloomfield in exchange for services estimated at \$3800 to grade the fire district parking lot. Voted to install 16 additional fire phone and 20 ambulance phones for a new alerting system for community emergencies. The cost of this new system from Seneca -Gorham Telephone Company was \$68 per month with an installation cost of \$300. Al Dahl was re-elected fire commissioner and they established a budget for 1967 at \$11660. The fire department moved into the new addition in December of 1966. The District ended the year with \$681.94 in the operating budget, \$5978.02 in the Equipment Reserve and nothing in the Building and Improvement fund. The records indicated that they paid Geneva Construction Co. \$27,136.50 for the construction of the addition to the firehouse.

With all the activities and expenses in the year 1966 it was hoped that the new year would be less hectic and expensive. It started with the rewiring and installation of new gas lines in the kitchen located upstairs in the old section of the firehouse. There was also problem

removing snow from the doors of the new firehouse. The town equipment was too large. The district had to have a public hearing in-order to make compensation insurance available to the ambulance personnel. Allowed the Boy Scouts to use the downstairs meeting hall for their winter meetings. It was later mentioned that the boy scouts were sponsored by the fire department. At this time various other community groups requested to use the firehouse. With the increase cost of all utilities it was decided to not have any group outside of the fire department from using the building. This policy was revisited in December of 1967 due to pressure form the community. The policy was changed and once again the building was able to be used by community groups with a change if the kitchen was used. Prepared a budget of \$12,760 for the year 1968.

In January of 1968 the Fire Commissioners, Eckler, Dahl, Snyder, Marshall and Blodgett gathered and organized. Al Dahl was elected chairman and Kenneth Boylan was appointed secretary. The commissioners voted to write up specifications for a new fire truck that was estimated to be \$20812 less a trade in. They also voted to pay the secretary/treasurer \$200 per year and the janitor \$100 per year. They also voted to pay Richard Shenk \$3.00 per trip to plow the front of the firehouse.

At the February, 1968 meeting the commissioners voted to request bids on a Ford C950 Chassis with special equipment not to exceed \$26,000. When the bids were open, Shepard Ford was awarded the bid for the chassis of \$7997 and John Bean Division was awarded the bid for the equipment of \$17,722. The commissioners also voted in 1968 to purchase a Motorola 100-watt radio for \$999 with an extra speaker and handset. The new pumper arrived in September of 1968. With the arrival of the new fire truck and the necessary to locate fire equipment in the older section of the firehouse, the Boy Scouts and Webelo's were asked to leave the building where they were meeting. A budget for 1969 was set at \$13,620. They were also concerned about training and were asking the chiefs to improve the training on all the equipment. In December, Ben Eckler was elected commission for 5 years and Ken Boylan was elected treasurer for 3 years. There was also discussion to extend the fire district to encompass the entire Town of East Bloomfield.

The year 1969 brought about the same board as in 1968. Chief Seely reported that the department had 20 monitors and requested 5 more be purchased. This was sent to committee to study the request. The chief also asked for a four-wheel drive truck with a water tank with high pressure. After some research, it was estimated that the cost would be approximately \$9000. The commissioners decided to wait until the district has paid off some of its obligations. The Town Supervisor Walt Neenan attended the meeting in April and reported that the town board voted not to support the enlargement of the fire district and suggested that the fire district increase the contracts of the Canandaigua, West Bloomfield and East Bloomfield Fire Protection Districts. At the May meeting the board decided to ask the Supervisor of the Town of Canandaigua to meet and discuss the fire protection contract. The proposal was to increase the contract to \$1200 per year. They also voted to terminate the contract with the Town of East Bloomfield at the next anniversary date. They later proposed to East Bloomfield a price of \$2500 per year. It was decided to keep the contract with the Town of West Bloomfield the same. The budget for 1970 was set at \$17,600. Harold Webb was elected commissioner for 5 years.

At the Fire District's organizational meeting for 1970, Al Dahl was elected chairman and Ken Boylan was appointed secretary. The treasurer, Ken Boylan, reported that the total fiscal assets of the district totaled \$14,257.44. In March, Clifford Lockhart was appointed

commissioner to replace Robert Marshall who resigned. In April, the district approved the request of the American Legion to store their hospital equipment at the firehouse. There was also a concern regarding parking between the Town Hall and the Firehouse. When the town was holding events, individuals parked next to the firehouse and this made it difficult for fire personnel to find a location to park their cars during an emergency. It was decided to post "No Parking" signs in spaces next to the firehouse. The department requested and it was approved to take the Diamond T to fire department parades outside the district. Ben Eckler resigned from the commissioner position in June. The resignation was accepted with regret. The board appointed Bob Henderson to fill the vacant position. The budget for 1971 was set at \$18,300. At the December election of the Fire Commissioners, the election results were: For a 5-year term, David Hudson; for a 3-year term, Bob Henderson; and for a 2-year term Clifford Lockhart. The commissioners were working with the 1968 pumper that developed some structural problems. After much discussion, research and dialogue with the John Beam Co., the 2 parties decided to share the cost of repairing the pumper that would cost a total of \$270.

The 1971 Organizational Meeting of the Fire District reappointed Al Dahl as chairman. Ken Boylan was appointed secretary of the district at a salary of \$250. It was reported by Chief Butch Baldwin that there are new equipment requirements that are to be enacted. The commissioners instructed Chief Baldwin to make a listing of all required equipment. The district treasurer, Ken Boylan gave the annual report for 1970. The district ended the year with a balance of \$3157.61. In April of 1971 meeting a state requirement, the school district fire alarm system was connected to the fire district's siren. In June of this year Mr. David Hudson resigned as a commissioner due to his inability to attend meetings. The board appointed Jean Mason to fill the vacancy of David Hudson. In the spring and summer of 1971 many meetings had discussions relating to the formation of new trailer parks, fire codes, building codes, fire reporting systems, installation of a 10kw generator and the formation of a radio base station, with no decisions made by the board. The first mention of a program at the schools for a fire prevention program was presented by fire department member Carl Frye. The commissioners approved the use of the fire trucks for this program. A budget for 1972 was approved totaling \$17600. In October of '71 fire fighting equipment was mission from the trucks. It was thought that the equipment was being kept by the firemen in their vehicles causing a shortage on the trucks. The commissioners ordered an inventory of all equipment and that all equipment be kept on the trucks. Fire district equipment was being used by individuals and municipalities without permission. The district sent letters to the municipalities informing them that the use of fire district equipment can be used when authorized by the Board of Fire Commissioners. At the election in December of '71 Jean Mason was elected to a 4-year term, Al Dahl to a 5-year term and Ken Boylan was elected to a 3-year term as district treasurer. Also, at this December meeting, it was voted to purchase a 100-watt base station radio. The commissioners also voted to purchase the equipment requested by the chiefs.

In January of 1972, the district gave permission to the villages be aurtioized to use fire equipment on an emergency basis with prior approval of the Board of Fire Commissioners and chief for a period of 30 days. At the end of the 1971 fiscal year the district had a fund balance of \$2785.84. In the spring of 1972, the commissioner discussed and established of a capital reserve fund to make it much easier for the district to handle the

purchase of equipment. The commissioners voted to have the John Bean Service center in Chittenango, NY inspect our 2 fire trucks for a total of \$175. This is the first mention of having the equipment inspected. The commissioners also voted to re-negotiate the fire protection contract with the 3 towns involved. A budget for 1973 of \$20,500 was approved. In October of 1972 it was approved to purchase a new fire truck with a 750 GPM pump and a 1000-gallon tank with a deluge gun mounted on the chassis to meet federal specifications. In the annual election of commissioners, Clifford Lockhart was elected to a 5-year term. The Rescue Squad, represented by Dan Murphy, informed the board that the department was purchasing a van type vehicle. It would be necessary to house this vehicle in the new fire house. This was approved by the commissioners. The commissioners also voted to place \$5000 in to the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund that was established in March of 1972.

The year 1973 started with the re-election of Al Dahl as chairman and Ken Boylan as secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners. The secretary's salary was increased to \$300. The bank balance at the end 1972 was \$2785.84. They also voted to hire Lynn Cornish as janitor for the district at a salary of \$300. In May, the commissioners voted to accept the specification on a new tanker at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. The bid came in lower than expected and Halpin Fire Equipment was awarded the contract with a bid of \$24,259. In July of 1973, it was pointed out that the cost of operating the ambulance was covered by the firemen's fund drives and donations. The commissioners voted that the Fire District would not pay any expenses other than the liability insurance on the emergency van or ambulance. In August, 12 pairs of boots, coats and helmets were approved as well as a light bar with a siren for the chief's vehicle. A budget of \$22000 was approved for the year 1974. Robert Henderson was elected to a 5-year term a commissioner. In December Norman Maybalm from Ionia addressed the board with a request to take over part of the Town of East Bloomfield fire protection district and turn it over to the Ionia fire department. This matter was referred to the Town of East Bloomfield Board. In discussing the equipment that will be carried on the emergency van it was decided that the equipment should not be removed from the other trucks. It was felt that each truck should able to operate singly and not have to rely on each other. One item mentioned was the Scott Air-packs. It was felt that each truck should have at least two. It was decided to look into this further at a later date.

Al Dahl was once again elected as chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners with Ken Boylan appointed as secretary for the year 1974. The commissioners ended 1973 with a bank balance of \$20739.96 and the equipment reserve fund of \$16253.12. The fire district decided to purchase 2 Scott Air-packs. The budget for 1975 was set at \$26,500. In September, the commissioners voted to hire the architectural firm of Kohlstaedt and Fredrickson to study develop drawings for the addition of truck bays in back of the existing main building and to study the feasibility of adding a social room over the existing bays. The commissioners also hired a contractor to remove snow for the winter for \$60 for the season. At the annual election, Harold Webb was elected commissioner for a 5 year term and Ken Boylan was elected for a 3 year term as treasurer.

The Fire District officers for 1975 remained the same as the previous year. Lynn Cornish was appointed janitor with a salary of \$350. The district ended 1974 with a balance of \$22463.18 and decided to transfer \$10,000 from this account to the equipment reserve

fund giving it a balance of \$27,162.49. The fire department approached the district with a request to transfer ownership of the van, 771, to the fire district. The district decided not to accept the van at this time. The district also stated that the fire district equipment this is on the van will remain the property of the district. A new Motorola radio was purchased and installed in the newly purchased tanker, 741, for \$1250. The cost of the new tanker was \$25,697.25.

Robert Henderson resigned as a commissioner due to the fact that he was elected and approved as First assistant Chief of the fire department. Bruce Kelley was appointed fire commissioner to fill the vacant term. The commissioners evaluated the existing fire protection district contracts for the towns of East Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Canandaigua and decided to end the contracts on the anniversary dates and negotiate new contracts. The East Bloomfield FPD agreed to 5-year contract for \$6700 per year. The Town of Canandaigua FPD agreed to a 5-year contract for \$2300 per year. The West Bloomfield FPD existing contract was extended for another year.

The district budget for 1976 was approved at \$28000. The district was continually purchasing fire equipment, boots, coats, gloves and helmets as requested by Chief Russ Chaapel. Also, communication between officers and trucks was being emphasized and the equipment was being purchased. Chief Chaapel was requesting the commissioners for permission for the firemen to be issued gear to be kept in their possession. There was a concern because this equipment would not be covered under insurance. The commissioners voted 3 yes and 1 no to grant the chiefs request for a one-year trial period. At the commissioner's election Bruce Kelley was elected to a 3-year term and Daniel Murphy was elected to a 5-year term. At the end of 1975 the district hired Bernard Donnegan, financial advisor and George Harris, attorney to guide them in securing a loan for the addition to the fire house. The commissioners also voted to carry all the funds for 1976 in the general budget and dissolve the equipment reserve fund.

In the nation's bi-centennial year the district officers remained the same as in 1975. The finances for the district started the year with \$27,609.72 in the general budget and \$27,238.80 in the equipment reserve account. A deluge gun was purchased and to be mounted on a truck. Also, 6 sets for fire police equipment was purchased for this group of volunteers. In January of '76 the district reviewed the first set of plans from the architect. Frank Marianacci, a local contractor and a fireman volunteered to review the plans with the commissioners and make suggestions. With adjustment made to the original plans the plans were approved in January.

Betty Watters requested membership into the fire department. This request was discussed at the commissioners meeting and tabled for further investigation of insurance laws to make certain she would be fully covered. At a later meeting, Betty Watters was approved by a 3 to 1 vote as a member in the fire department. She is the first female fireperson in the East Bloomfield-Holcomb Fire Department.

The district was using phones to notify our firefighters and EMS personnel when there was a call. Continually the phones were being changed when officers changed and additional phones were continually being increased. It is important to note that the home of the Seneca-Gorham Telephone Company was in the village and was a great supporter of the Fire Service in working to meet our telephone needs.

In the early summer of 1976, the district held a vote to secure a bond for the construction of an addition to the firehouse of \$105,000. The West Bloomfield Town Board requested that the East Bloomfield emergency squad cover 90% of the town of West Bloomfield. The

squad said that they would cover the town for 1 year and encouraged the town to organize an ambulance service to cover their town.

District budget for 1977 was approved at \$32,200. Also, \$12,000 was transferred to the equipment reserve fund. Alfred Dahl was elected to a five-year term as commissioner.

There was a change in leadership at the organizational meeting in 1977. Harold Webb was elected chairman of the board and Ken Boylan was appointed secretary at a salary of \$400 per year. The financial report for end of 1976 indicated that the operating account ended the year with \$46,920.04, a reserve fund of \$13,634.05 and a building account of \$2,114. In late summer, Daniel Murphy resigned as commissioner and David Lawson was appointed to fill out the term. The proposed budget for 1978 was \$32,330. At the annual district elections David Lawson was elected to a 3-year term and Mike Woodruff was elected to a 5-year term. Ken Boylan was also elected to a 3-year term as district treasurer. The fire and ambulance contract with the Town of West Bloomfield ended in 1977. This apparently was the last year the district covered the Town of West Bloomfield. In this year the district voted in 3 additional females as members of the fire department: Mary Rudat, Debra Dixon and Elizabeth Halling.

In 1978 the officers of the fire district remained the same. The commissioners approved the use of the firehall for a 13-week EMT class. This fiscal year started with an operating budget of \$41,447.71, an equipment reserve fund of \$14,452.09 and a building account of \$979. An inventory of equipment was conducted by the chiefs and it was determined that there was a need for a quantity of equipment such as brooms, shovels, as well as coats, gloves and boots. All requested equipment was purchased. Also, the first floor of the old truck bay was also remodeled into an office and a meeting room. The budget for 1979 was the same as 1978. Since radios in the truck were 20 years old the commissioners voted to purchase 2 new radios for trucks at \$594 each. The board voted to make the position of treasurer an appointed position starting in 1980.

The officers remained the same in 1979 with Harold Webb as chairman and Ken Boylan as secretary. This year an addition 3 Plectron monitors were purchased. Chief Henderson reported that the 3 pocket scanners that were purchased 2 year ago are not working out as anticipated and requested that they be sold. Treasurer Boylan reported that the year 1978 ended with an operating fund balance of \$34,720.60, an equipment reserve account with \$17,819.21 and a building account with the \$0.00 balance. In April Dave Lawson resigned his position as commissioner and Russ Chaapel was appointed to complete the term. In July, the Town of East Bloomfield notified the fire district that the town is cancelling the existing contract and would like to negotiate a new contract. The new proposal was a 5-year contract at \$13,200 per year. This was the year that the district purchased for the first time 10 pairs of bunker pants at a cost of \$58.60 per pair. The proposed budget for 1980 was presented at \$37,100. This was a year of communications. It seems that at every meeting there was a request for some sort of radio for purchase, sale or repair including the purchase, for the first time of mintor receivers.

The decade of the '80's started with the 5 commissioners of Al Dahl, Russ Chaapel, Steve Murnan, Mike Woodruff and Bruce Kelley gathering for the annual organizational meeting. They elected Russ Chaapel as chairman and Ken Boylan appointed as

secretary-treasurer with a salary of \$500, Charles Baldwin as janitor with a salary of \$450. The chairman also appointed committees. The truck committee was Woodruff and Kelley, the building committee was Murnan and Dahl and the equipment committee of Woodruff and Murnan. This is the first-time committees appear in the minutes of the commissioners. Treasurer Boylan reported that at the end of 1979 the operating budget had a balance of \$4,460.06 and the reserve fund a balance of \$24,472.77. With the creation of committees, the members reported that new equipment is necessary and started to purchase turnout gear and equipment for the firefighters. Also, the truck committee reported that a new pumper will be necessary shortly. The proposed budget for 1981 was submitted at \$36,600. Much discussion was held on roof repairs and renovations to the older section of the building. No action was taken. The town of Canandaigua approved a 5-year contract for the fire protection district for \$4500. In December the town of East Bloomfield advised the commissioners that they have appointed the Fire Chief as the Town of East Bloomfield fire coordinator.

At the organizational meeting in 1981 there were no changes in officers and committees for the district. The town approached the district to purchase land at the rear of the town hall to construct a mandatory handicapped ramp for access to the building. The district proposed to sell to the town a strip of land the width of the town hall and 40 feet deep for this purpose for \$1. The treasurer reported that the ending operating balance for 1980 was \$1888.45 and an equipment reserve fund of \$36,948.77. In March the fire department was proposing to the commissioners the establishment of a Junior-Corps, an organization for youth in the community. The commissioners requested more information. In April the board voted to request bids on a new pumper and to establish a special election to finance the new pumper. Only one bid was received for the pumper by FMC corporation for \$81,255. The board decided to bond the purchase of the truck for \$55,000 and the remainder coming out of the equipment reserve fund. The district also purchased a "skid-tank" at a price of \$4352, for the brush truck, "Bandit", a 4-wheel drive pick-up truck, that was purchased by the fire department. The district started to repair the roof and paint the exterior of the firehouse. It also allowed the fire department permission to house a second ambulance in the firehouse and would pay for the required insurance. The van was again offered to the district for ownership and the district accepted. Throughout the year the commissioners were continually purchasing equipment including turnout gear to upgrade the equipment for the firefighters. The proposed budget for 1982 was \$40,350. The district, after investigation, voted to contract with the Seneca-Gorham Telephone Company to handle all fire and emergency calls, excluding ambulance calls, and dispatch them 24 hours a day. At the annual district election Richard Times was elected fire commissioner.

The year 1982 started with the same officers as in the previous year. The year started with the district receiving the new tanker pumper, E-711. The 1955 Dodge tanker, TP-732 was sold to Holcomb Agway for \$1303.33. Chief Henderson approached the board and requested that exhaust fans be completed and other safety equipment be installed into the firehouse for the safety and welfare of the firefighters. The treasurer, Ken Boylan made his annual financial report for 1981 and reported the operating budget ended the year with \$21,301.21 and the equipment reserve fund had \$45,000. The commissioners voted to accept ownership of the brush truck, BR-751 from the fire department. Equipment and continually being purchased as well as minor renovations were being made to the

building. In May the East Bloomfield-Holcomb Junior Corps was approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners. The proposed budget for 1983 was \$42,200. Bradley Bennett was elected to a 5-year term as a commissioner. In reading the minutes of the 1980's to date the commissioners were constantly purchasing and upgrading equipment for the fire service. This was needed due to the fact that during this period the fire department had a large influx of new members serving both the fire service and the emergency squad. They also established policies and procedures as well as working to maintain the building.

The organizational meeting for 1984 was quite different than the previous number of years. Russ Chaapel was elected Chairman and the commissioners voted to advertise to fill the position of secretary/treasurer for the district. Martha Powers was appointed secretary for the January meeting. The report from the treasurer stated that the operational budget had a balance of \$17,899.32, the reserve fund balance of \$14,823.09 and there was a balance due of \$41,000 on the bond anticipation note. As of March 1st, Judy Kwarta was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the Fire District. The 1961 John Bean Ford pumper was sold to Panama Fire Apparatus of Panama City Florida for \$6500. The emergency squad had need to improve the existing phone system due to its age and the fact that phones were needed due to an increase in membership. The new system would cost \$14,900. The District voted to pay for half the cost of the system. The department agreed to pay the other half. Due to changes at Seneca-Gorham the notification of emergencies to the department had to be reworked at an additional cost of \$2,000. The proposed budget for 1985 was set at \$58,292. Mike Woodruff was elected fir commissioner. This year was as the past few years. Many new members joined the department and equipment was needed. Also, many repairs were needed on the building and on the fire trucks.

The Board of Fire Commissioners for the East Bloomfield-Holcomb Fire district for the year 1985 were: Steve Murnan, chairperson, Brad Bennett, Mike MacMillan, John Newvine and Andy Ventura. Judy Kwarta was appointed clerk-treasurer. The year started with an equipment reserve of \$14,572.04 and an operating fund balance of \$13,278.07. This year was basically uneventful. In the summer of this year the board and the department lost to cancer a valued fireman, Russel Chaapel who served as a firefighter, fire chief and fire commissioner. The district ended the year with \$56978.49 in the equipment reserve fund and an operating fund balance of \$16,039.65. The board spent a lot of time working on maintenance of the building and trucks and providing the need equipment for both the fire department and the emergency squad that was being requested by Chief Bill Saar. A lot of time was spent on the fire and ems phone system to keep in operating properly.