

Fire or Ambulance
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Arlington Fire District

11 Burnett Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING February 16, 2000

ATTENDEES: Comm. John Richardson, Chairman
Comm. Ralph Chiumento
Comm. Gerard Philipp
Comm. Paul Lahey (absent)
Comm. Karen Pells

Attorney: Gerard Comatos (excused)
Treasurer: James Passikoff (excused)
Secretary: Renee Gaddis

Chairman Richardson opened the special meeting of the Arlington Fire District at 7:05 p.m.

- Chairman Richardson stated that the purpose of this meeting is to hear input on different proposals on the manning problems we are having in the south end. Briefly explained the preliminary plans on Boardman Road. Its available immediately, but does not satisfy our needs, i.e. bunk rooms. Spackenkill Road just west of Boardman Road, surrounded by wetland, which means not expansion can be made. Avis building was put on back burner on IBM Road.

I. REPRESENTATION FROM EACH STATION

- A. Jim Deane, representing Engine Co. #1- brought up at their company meeting, had no remarks on how we are going to man it.
- B. Assistant Chief Bob Averill - representing Red Oaks Mill Fire Company, read letter submitted. Summary as follows:
 - 1. Supports having daytime staffing at Croft Corners.
 - 2. If Board is not interested in reducing the ALS on scene response time in south end at night, they feel a substation is not warranted at any location.
 - 3. A substation should be placed where majority of calls are. Board

should buy/lease property from IBM, Avis or nearby. Boardman Road is not a good location.

4. The Boardman Road proposed substation is strongly opposed by Station 3. Will not divide the district, daytime. We need 3 BLS ambulances in service 24 hours a day.
5. Opposes to any BLS EMS/Amb or Fire response from this substation during the time frame of 5 a.m. - 7 a.m. Seen as a direct replacement for volunteer fire and EMS service on Red Oaks. Poor tax burden/staffing tradeoff. Will be seen as a end of volunteerism in Station 3.
6. If Board feels they need a substation on Boardman Road, they feel 3289 and 3287 should be only equipment staffed 24 hours a day with fly car staffed with only one paramedic. Croft still needs to have 4 career members assist them weekdays, 1st shift.
7. Have an additional paramedic at HQ and not build a substation at all.

C. Brian Mallet, representing Rochdale Fire Company - Read letter submitted. Summary as follows:

1. Feels that Boardman Road site is not in an area to best serve the residents.
2. Feels that IBM section is more suitable for the district, its in the southern corridor.
3. Construction of a new station to better serve the district's needs.

D. Carl Davidson, representing Croft Corners - Read letter submitted. Summary as follows:

1. In favor of accepting Vassar College's offer.
2. Substation would provide EMS coverage 24-7.
 - a. Days- Medic (in a fly car) and 2 EMT's in an ambulance.
 - b. Nights - Medic and an EMT in a fly car.
3. Other possibilities of usage:
 - a. EMS Operations and EMS training
 - b. Relocate Training office and hold 50% of district fire training at substation.
4. Supports the location of a reserve engine at substation provided the engine is out of service and not manned from the substation.

E. FF John Meluch, representing Local 2393

1. Boardman Road area is OK. Concerns over building. Building was designed as a heating/cooling facility. Access is poor. Who will maintain road?
2. Spackenkill Road is a better area. Start from ground up, instead of fixing what is there.
3. Would endorse a sufficient staffing level in the south end that would provide a safer operation.

4. Keep in mind the trends in call volume for both fire and EMS alarms. Big need for fire equipment on south end.
- F. Deputy Chief Jeff Pells, representing the Chief's Council - Read letter submitted. Summary as follows:
1. Need to supplement volunteer personnel with career personnel at Station #5, during weekday hours of 07:00 to 17:00 hours with 4 FF/EMT's. This would provide best service to public in the Route 9 corridor, while providing relief to CCFC volunteers.
 2. Feels that a substation is only necessary if the Board wants to add an additional ALS fly car in the south end, 24-7.
 3. Council is divided on whether 1 paramedic or 1 paramedic and a BLS rider/attendant should be implemented with the ALS fly car. This can near term volunteer EMS impacts at CCFC and Red Oaks with the additional rider.
 4. Strongly opposes to a substation being built/rented in station 1/3/4's response area, which includes Boardman Road area. Feels that a substation should be built/rented in Route 9 corridor.
 5. Goal should be to have 3 BLS ambulance in service 24/7.
 6. If substation is going to be built, recommends to move all administration to keep entity together. Otherwise moving EMS and/or Training would complicate day to day business.

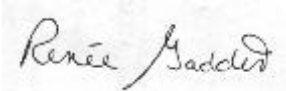
II. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

- A. DC Pells - regardless where they decide to build, should be built right. Not 100% opposed to Boardman Road area, building is not usable as needed. Demolish it and do it right.
- B. AC Bill Philipps - doesn't think it will benefit at all. Volunteers won't get up. Waste of taxpayers money. 100% for volunteer during day at Croft.
- C. Carl Davidson - keeps hearing about putting 4 people in Croft. Where are you going to put them? Wants Chief's Council to submit a written proposal.
- DC Pells stated that the Chief's Council has tried to contact the company president twice, got no response, ignored. They will submit a written proposal. It would be the Chief's Council's position, not of the Board and as far as expenditures, the Board would have to approve it.
 - Carl assures, if he gets a written proposal, it will be looked at.
- D. Betsy Saul - Would like to see 24 hour coverage at Croft Corners, its expanding.
- E. Bob Averill - Hopes apparatus and manning goes to appropriate spot.
- F. Jeff Karn - As representatives to the taxpayers, what kind of on scene time do they want to the taxpayers? They all pay the same money, they should get the same service.

- G. Joe Tarquinio - suggests EMT's 24 hours at all stations. They save lives.
- H. John Kloepfer - sees it as a challenge as a Director of EMS to make a system work and from the Director's office, not going to take a position. As an individual, before we can make a determination where to put a substation, they need to look into what they want to accomplish. I.E.: looking at improving response time?, putting paramedics 24 hours a day in south end?, better fire coverage? If we know what the goals are, then we can make a conclusion on what and where they want it.
- I. John Richardson - As an individual, not as a Commissioner, biggest concern is to taxpayers. Sees erosion of volunteerism in Station 5, if paid staff is put in. Feels Boardman Road, as a location, is the best site. It will put coverage on south end. It's a central location for "backup" coverage. Something is needed in the Boardman Road / Spackenkill Road area. Wants EMS coverage there. ALS coverage during the day.
- J. Gerry Philipp - Needs to get paramedics in closer to the south end, especially at night. Doesn't want to affect the volunteers. Main concern is getting paramedics around the clock on the south end.
- K. Ralph Chiumento - If he could position the firehouses or equipment with career staff, he'd put it at Croft Corners, HQ and Boardman Road area. In order to do that, they need to split manning in the south end, which doesn't make sense. Doesn't see growth in south end, sees growth in Spackenkill Road area, Rochdale area. Priorities being medic 24-7 on the south end, eventually a third ambulance during the day he sees becoming a necessity. Fly car at night with an extra person is beneficial. Advantage being that a paramedic and EMT working together. Needs reduction on responses to areas that seem more frivolous like automatic fire alarms.
- L. Karen Pells - Boardman Road was the only proposal she knew of.
- DC Pells responded and gave her input on the other proposals.
Agrees that we should have something on south end. Feels that Boardman Road is too far north. If we put career staff in Station 5 now, it would be a quick fix.
- DC Pells stated that you cannot put career staff in Croft now, something would have to be done with the building.

With no further comments, the District special meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

 Respect

Renee Gaddis
District Secretary