

**EAST GREENBUSH FIRE COMPANY
LINE OFFICERS MEETING SUMMARY
January 15, 2007**

The meeting was held at the Training Room at 7pm at Fire Headquarters. The Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs mentioned to the officers present that the meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis after February. The intention of these meetings is to improve communications between all the line officers and relaying the pertinent information to the firefighters. The meetings must have an agenda. Last year it seemed as though meetings were held to vent our problems between officers, and their station personnel. The Chief reiterated to the other line officer's and Assistant Chiefs that this is a training year. We are attempting to revert back to the 2 year pattern for the Chief Engineer position. This is not only a training year for the Assistant Chiefs, but it is a training year for many of our new and young line officers.

Assistant Chief Roher commented on the progression of Engine 8 which is being repaired by KME in Latham. Chief Roher and Captain Lehmann were at KME earlier in the day before the meeting and they took digital photos. The digital photos were presented by Chief Roher on the computer projector. The photos are also available on our fire company website.

Chief Cook, Assistant Chief DiMartino, and Captain Dick critiqued the chimney fire at 47 Cooper Avenue. Captain Dick explained what was going on when he walked across the street. The Chief's emphasized the truck placement at a call like this, and the types of calls in locations such as Sherwood Park. The Chiefs and Captain Dick mentioned the importance of having a truck at a hydrant. Instructions were given for responding apparatus to this incident; however the trucks came in a different way. The Rescue Squad also had a couple of very small issues when they arrived there. The fireplace or woodstove was serviced once every 2 years according to the homeowner. We think now he will have it serviced more than that. The intent from the command officer for this incident was to have Engine 9 and Engine 7 be fully committed to the scene, and have E-6 from the North and T-11 be positioned at the location so that if there was

another emergency, those pieces of apparatus would be able to respond. One of the newer members at the Main Station was delegated to be the Safety Officer for the incident as no Safety Officers were present. We had personnel working on top of the roof, roof ladders on top of the roof, and other personnel working right below them. The Chiefs pointed out that we need to respect and be courteous to our other members, the Safety Officer's job that evening was to prevent us from becoming a victim. We need to continue to practice safety all the time!

Assistant Chief Roeher advised the other Chiefs and Line Officers that Tom Gullo is the new Safety Officer at the Park Station, and he is currently taking the Safety Officer class at the Averill Park Fire Department. We will now have a Safety Officer at each station.

At the Cooper Avenue incident members were asking for the water can from Engine 9. Captain Dick advised the firefighters/officers that there is no water can on Engine 9. Chief Cook advised Tom Whittemore to purchase a water can for Engine 9 after this meeting. Foreman Smith also requested that Engine 9 have more tarps. There was only 1 on the truck. Tarps will also be purchased for Engine 9.

A significant amount of time at this meeting was spent discussing communications, arrival updates, establishing command. Chief Cook continued to advise the young and experienced officers that our arrival updates and radio transmissions have been somewhat poor. If we are responding to a call using low band radios it's "502 control Engine 8", not East Greenbush Control. "East Greenbush Control" is to be utilized when we are talking on the 800 MHz radio system. Don't use names on the radio such as "thanks Jimmy". Don't abuse the airway. Do not use terminology such as "fully involved." Fully involved means there is no way of saving the building, and there is no way for us to save the structure. For our incidents we use signals, Signal 10, Signal 20, or Signal 30. When the first arriving officer or piece of apparatus arrives at the scene, don't just say, "Engine 8 arriving". Don't be shy on the radio, it's okay to say "502 Control Engine 8 is arriving, smoke showing from the second story windows." Then if you are the command officer give a more detailed description, make it short and sweet such as, "502 Control Cooper Avenue Command," Control be advised we have smoke and fire showing from the second story of the 3 story brick apartment. Have the second piece of

apparatus hit the hydrant to feed Engine 9.” The Chiefs informed the officers that at drills this year we will try to use more of the 800 radio system. The members need to be familiar with how to use the radio system since it is to be used whenever mutual aid is involved, either giving or receiving.

The Chief informs the officers that the generator at the North Station is out of service effective immediately. Leave the switch on manual until the generator is repaired. If there is an incident where the generator needs to be utilized someone needs to physically go over there and start the generator. Atlantic Detroit Diesel could be at the North Station to see what type of work needs to be done as early as Wednesday 1/17/07. Assistant Chief Roeher emphasized that the generator should be checked once a month or once every couple of weeks by the Foreman. That is part of the Monthly Truck Inspection. The fluids need to be checked, as well as any other important components such as the filters, and the oil level.

Chief Cook received a phone call from the county training coordinator and he informed the Chief that there will be an Accident Victim Extrication class held at our fire station on the last Monday and Tuesday of January and the first Monday and Tuesday of February. The class is being hosted at our station. The class is just too large for Schodack Valley to host. They have 15 of their own members in the class.

Chief Cook discussed respect of our line officers. If you (officers) are in the officer’s seat “it’s your call.” If you have been directed by a command officer to go to a “stand-by” even though you may have driven by the fire, then guess what you made the right call. The command officer advised you to go to the cover station, then that’s what you do. If you have a problem with a firefighter, discuss the issue when you get back to the firehouse with him, not in the fire truck, and especially not at the fire scene. The Chiefs want to see the officers mature, and be effective in what they do. The Chief gives his full support to each and every officer. Wait for your crews especially with the cold weather. Also with the cold weather dress accordingly. Give a firefighter an extra couple of seconds to put a heavy pair of socks on.

Other items of interest briefly discussed were:

- 1) Apparatus Maintenance-The truck inspections are to be completed by the 7th of every month. The whole point of having this in by the 7th is so the Chiefs can be

- aware of a problem, review the maintenance problem with the Chief, and so the maintenance problem can be discussed at the Commissioners meeting.
- 2) Box Alarms & Pre-Plans-The County has received our box alarms. We do not have many of them compared to other agencies in our county, but members need to be familiar with them. In regards to Pre-Plans Capt. Bob Lehmann, and Chief Cook will be working together to get our Pre-Plans up to par. Capt. Lehmann has some great ideas and will be running along with this task.
 - 3) Computer Operations-Connecting all of the stations through computer networking would enable us to access box alarms, maps of the district, allow us to sign in after calls, review our emails. This concept is under review by the Company's Technology Committee.
 - 4) District Fuel-Captain Cullum discussed how he takes care of the fuel tank at the Park Station. Every 2-3 months the fuel level is checked, when the tank is filled Capt. Cullum has an invoice, and forwards the invoice to Assistant Chief Roeher.
 - 5) Driver Training-Assistant Chief DiMartino mentioned they would like to re-establish the "rodeo", and fine tune the program this year along with help from some other members and line officers.
 - 6) EMS Program-Capt. Dick has stepped up to get this program up to par along with some assistance from FF/EMT Greg Forgea and Lieutenant/ EMT Jeff Tooker. Chris worked as a paid EMT, and as a paid paramedic in Greenport. He has a significant amount of experience. He also informed the line officers and Chiefs that due to his full time job he will be out of town during the upcoming weeks.
 - 7) Physicals-Physicals are scheduled for January 23rd and January 24th. All active interior firefighters will be required to have an EKG. For the younger members under 40, you will still be due for a physical every other year. There was a slight misprint on the medical forms, still fill them out even though they say Clinton Heights Fire Department on them.
 - 8) PRU 11-What are we doing with it? The district will be discussing what to do with this piece of apparatus? There was a small discussion on that topic. Do we consolidate the trailer to a diesel truck? Place the equipment on Engine 9? A

committee is continuing to evaluate the trailer and alternatives. The only vehicle that can tow the trailer is Car 4's vehicle.

- 9) Air Packs/ Battery Changes/ Gear-The semi-annual battery change will take place in February, most likely during a single company night. Each station will change out the batteries. Also Quartermaster Whittemore informed all the officers that if you change a battery, you must fail the pack first, and then pass it on the next line of the sheet. Sixteen new sets of gear will be purchased in 2007. Tom Whittemore will be reviewing the current gear that some of members have.
- 10) Training Bureau-Assistant Chief DiMartino, Capt. Lehmann, and LT. Mike Benson Jr have developed a drill schedule through the first 6 months. Many of the drills are "back to the basics" such as pumping, forcible entry, extrication, scene size-up, etc. The first 2 or 3 months of the drill schedule are dedicated to the annual OSHA Drills. If you need the Fire Police for any drill or small practical let the Captain of the Fire Police know in advance. They are more than willing to assist us in any way they can and they want to be involved.
- 11) Port of Rensselaer-Past Chief Tordoff has said he would like to come back and work on any issues we may have in the Port of Rensselaer. His job is to update our files on the businesses down there such as ARG Trucking, Gold Bond, Hess etc. This is a crucial area in our fire district. There are many important items to discuss when it comes to the Port of Rensselaer.
- 12) Knox Boxes-Schodack Center will be going with Knox Boxes. We anticipate the keys will be encoded to be compatible with Fire District 3.
- 13) Mutual Aid in the city of Rensselaer- The Chief received a phone call from Mark Lacivita whom is the head of the Rensselaer County Radio Committee regarding the city of Rensselaer mutual aid procedures. There are no set mutual aid dispatch or radio procedures for the city of Rensselaer when they request mutual aid. There will be more to follow with this issue. The respective Chiefs from EGFD, CHFD, Defreestville, and Rensselaer will be having a meeting relatively soon to adopt a concise mutual aid plan.

The meeting concluded at 8:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Benson Jr.

Lieutenant