



ROTTERDAM FIRE DISTRICT No. 7

Town of Rotterdam

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June 2011- Second Quarter 2011 Commissioner Newsletter.

The Fire Company

June 4, 2011 the Volunteer firefighters held a Chicken BBQ, Craft fair, and Car show at the fire house. This year the weather was excellent and as a result there were many more cars on display for all to view. The volunteer firemen wish to thank all who attended especially the residents that attended. We hope you enjoyed the day and we certainly enjoyed visiting with you.

The Auxiliary

The Schonowe Auxiliary will be holding an Ice Cream Social on July 21, 2011- 6 to 8 pm. Strawberries, Hot Fudge and Root Beer Floats. All are welcome.

The Fire District

During the Second Quarter of 2011 the Board of Commissioners has been wrestling with two facility issues that have a major effect on the operation of the fire service going forward.

In our First Quarter 2011 news letter, it was noted that the kitchen cooking equipment received a negative report from the Rotterdam Town Building Inspector, and as a consequence, the kitchen was shut down.

During the second quarter consultants were hired to give the Board a conceptual design and cost estimate to bring the kitchen into compliance. The quote for just the material (stove, ovens, hand washing sink, exhaust hood for ventilation) was just over \$11,000. This quote does not include the required hood fire suppression system, final design / installation drawings, or the labor costs for installation. We anticipate that these costs would bring the estimates to over \$25,000. Also not included in this estimate is the approximate 50 plus year old dish washer, storage cabinets, lighting, and ventilating systems. It is conceivable that a complete upgrade of the kitchen facility that would meet the Schenectady County Health Department standards could exceed \$55,000. This project has been put on hold based on the following.

On June 21, 2011 the Fire District received the decision from John W. Scott Hearing Officer from the Administrative Adjudication Office of the NYSDOL. This decision is in response to the Districts request for a permanent safety variance for access to the second floor of the fire house. Mr. Scott granted a one year permanent variance with adherence to the restrictions and recommendations made at the March 14, 2011 hearing. Mr. Scott further stated that if the District does not implement the decision within one year of the decision date, or have an action plan in place with an approved extension to the variance, no one will be permitted to access the second floor of the fire house facility.

The Board looking for a third party review of the NYSDOL decisions has requested our District lawyer to review the requirements, recommendations, and decision imposed by the NYSDOL. It is the opinion of our lawyer that the District needs to move forward and have an engineering firm make a determination as to what the costs would be to provide a second means of access to the second floor. If the District does not following the NYSDOL decision the District would be denied access to the second floor by the NYSDOL. Our lawyer also advised us of his understanding that the current firehouse is in excess of sixty years of age and while we are aware of this particular decision from the NYSDOL there may be many other issues relative to the continued use of this aging facility. Our lawyer has suggestion that after we have the engineering study done addressing the NYSDOL issue that we need to discuss with the engineers what the proper course of action would be for the benefit of the firefighters and residents of the community with respect to the firehouse.

This process is underway.

Sincerely the Board of Fire Commissioners.