



ROTTERDAM FIRE DISTRICT No. 7

Town of Rotterdam

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April 2010

First quarter 2010 Commissioner Newsletter.

The Board of Fire Commissioners started the year short two commissioners due to resignations. The law states with regard to vacancies, "If the vacancy is filled after January 1st and prior to October 1st, the person so appointed shall hold office until December 31st of the year in which appointed and a successor shall be elected at the annual fire district election held immediately prior thereto to serve for the unexpired portion of the term". Information was posted on our sign and in the Gazette for applications by interested parties to serve. Three people expressed an interest in accepting a temporary position. After interviews and careful deliberations both positions have been appointed.

The Firemen and the Auxiliary held a number of community functions in the first quarter of 2010 (corn beef & ham dinner, pancake breakfast, and fish fry). The reasons for these functions are: 1). to provide the opportunity for the residents to meet and talk with the volunteers that provide your fire service 2). Provide an opportunity for the Firemen and Auxiliary to make a profit for their use within their respective organizations because they receive no funding support from district taxes.

A new insurance policy covering liability and volunteer disability insurance for 2010 / 2011 has been negotiated. This policy offers increased value at a cost that is \$1000 less than the 2009 / 2010 policy.

The Schonowe Volunteer Fire Company has acquired three (3) new interior qualified volunteers that finished their initial fire training on April 17, 2010. The Fire Fighter 1 training course requires a participant to devote over 92 hours of time to complete the course. This is all volunteered time away from their home and families as well as work for those who work nights. The fire district owes them special thanks for their service and commitment.

The replacement of the Fire House roof started by the previous administration is nearing completion. It was found that the roof was not in eminent danger of failure as described rather it was found there were leaks occurring at the interface of the peaked and flat sections of the roof due to a substandard installation done in the past.. Due to the poor timing from the start of this project, which started in January 2010, there was more than expected cost incurred in the administration of the contract due to weather conditions and the need to extend the contract time. The present Board was able to minimize the cost by amendments to the contract to do only the necessary work to preserve the integrity roof.

The 2009 building committee has spent many hours considering various options that would cover the needs and requirements of the fire service while minimizing the cost to the district. They have published a number of news letters in order to keep the community updated on their efforts and recently sent out a survey to 340 households in the district. A return of 71 responses to the survey was received. It was anticipated that many more would have replied. Hopefully the committee will publish the results of the limited response. To date there has been no definitive recommendations from the building committee to the Board of Commissioners however we are expecting recommendations in the near future.

It is understood that a number of residents have within this quarter been given information indicating that the Board has made the decision to just fix the building because the roof is being repaired. There is absolutely no truth to this statement. By a split decision the previous Board voted to proceed with the roof replacement and chose not explore all of their options for presentation to the residents before spending a large sum of district money. If any resident wishes to become informed as to the facts being considered rather than the persistent misleading and non truthful information being selectively distributed we invite them to any Commissioners meeting where they can express their concerns to the Board members and receive the facts as they really exist.

Sincerely the Board Of Fire Commissioners.