

FIRE DISTRICT HISTORY

In January 1942 about 95% of the taxpayers in the Town of Wright signed a petition asking the town board to establish a Fire District for the whole of the Town of Wright. In part it read as follows--WHEREFORE your petitioners pray that the Town Board of the Town of Wright establish a Fire District comprises of the entire Town of Wright, to the end that such territory may furnish itself with adequate fire protection-----

At the town board meeting of February 11, 1942 a public hearing was ordered, to hear all persons interested, on February 25, 1942 at 7:00 PM at the town hall. Following this meeting the town board ordered a Fire District to be formed to include the whole of the town of Wright and the order was approved and ~~filled~~ filed with the State Department of Audit and Control at Albany on November 13, 1942.

at the public meeting of February 25, 1942 the town board appointed the following fire commissioners to hold office until the first annual election for commissioners the following December They were..Anson Schoonmaker, Max Wise, Robert Shultes, Clifford Schell and Mark Zimmer with Chester Zimmer appointed Secretary Treasurer.

First official meeting of the fire commissioners was March 6, 1942. Work was started on specifications etc. for a fire truck. It was during the war and to buy a truck it had to be approved by the proper Government agencies. This took considerable time and paper work. Also in order to spend over \$1000.00 for equipment the proposition had to be approved by a vote of the taxpayers.

July 6, 1942 a special election was held to vote on the following proposition..To expend not to exceed the sum of \$4500.00 for the purchase of apparatus and equipment for the extinguishment and prevention of fires in the Town of Wright. The result of this election was a tie vote. 34 for and 34 against. This caused the idea of the truck to be tabled for a while.

On December 1, 1942 the first annual election of Fire Commissioners was held and the following elected-- 5 year term, Max Wise--4 year term, Edward Manchester,--3 year term, Ross Snyder 3 year term, William Benninger,--1 year term, Harold Murphy. Fire District Treasurer, 3 year term, Chester Zimmer.

March 10, 1943 another Special Election was presented to the fire district voters to be acted upon. It was the same proposition as July 6, 1942 when the result was a tie vote. The proposition to buy a fire truck was turned down--39 votes cast in favor and 56 votes cast in opposition. This was quite a blow to the organized firemen after all the work had been done to organize and get started. The fire district was still in effect and \$1000.00 could be raised per year by taxation. The commissioners went ahead with a budget and ask the town board for the year 1944 the amount of \$477.76. A small siren was purchased for the pole on the corner, attorney fees paid along with some other bills.

There was a standstill for a few months after the defeat of the truck proposition of March 10, 1943. There was some ideas brought up to build a small truck on the pickup chassis using a small amount of capital outlay. It was learned this type of truck would be small and not meet Fire Underwriters approval.

AND Therefore insurance rated would not be reduced. Money would be spent in small amounts with no good end result of adequate equipment.

For the year 1945 a budgit of \$999.82 was submitted. There was \$650.00 of this earmarked for purchase of equipment. Considerable work was being done by a lot of intrested members of the fire department and on November 6, 1944 the Fire Commissioners met with Mr. Doty of the Sanford Fire Equipment Corp. of Syracuse and new specifications were drawn up for a new truck proposition to go before the voters. The war priority was granted from Washington and Albany to purchase a new truck if the vote was favorable.

Early in January 1945 a four page letter was prepared by the Fire Commissioners and mailed to all listed taxpayers in the Town of Wright. There had been a lot of misunderstanding previous to this letter. This letter gave all the facts about the truck, tax to be raised, operation and also about the reduced insurance rates. Another special election was held January 19, 1945 to vote on the same proposition to buy equipment. The result of this election was favorable..84 votes cast in favor with 22 against. This put the Ford fire truck on the way.

The truck arrived August 21, 1945. Its the present Ford Previous to delivery it had to be tested in Syracuse taking water from the Large Canel with a lift of 8ft 6in. This test was conducted by an engineer of the Sanford Fire Equipment Corp. for the National Board of Fire Underwriters. This test had to be completed as it was our first truck and it had to meet certain specifications to have reduced insurance rates in our district. On arrival of the Fire truck the following list of drivers were trained by the engineer delivering the truck. He was here three days. Drivers were, Letsr Thornton, Lansing Finch, Martin Paring, Ernest Westfall, Delbert Keyser, Myron Hotaling, Rudolph Sturm, Adam Manchester, Chester Zimmer, Earl Osolneck and Otto Schultz.

The truck equipment on delivery was as follows..
The pump--500 Gal.per min. two stage centrifugal type.
200 Gal booster tank, 4-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in hard suction 10ft long also strainer, 150 ft booster hose, 24ft extension ladder, 12 ft roof ladder, one foam extinguisher, 800ft 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in hose, 200ft 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in hose 1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ regular nozzle, 1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ fog nozzle, 1-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ nozzle. booster hose nozzle, 1-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ xl $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ siamese with gates ~~known~~ known as the water thief and also two hand lights.

The truck cost on delivery was \$5250.00 \$650.00 was covered in the regular budgit of 1945. The balance of \$4600.00 was covered with payments of \$920.00 per yaer with 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % intrest each year of the next five years. These payments were completed in 1950.

March 21, 1952 the fire commissioners set up a special reserve fund according to town law. This was for the purchase of a second truck sometime in the future, Some money could be set aside each year out of the regular budgit monoy. The maxium amount set up was for \$3500.00.

Of special note is when the fire district was formed \$1000.00 could be ask to be raised by tax each year in the regular budgit. In 1951 this was raised by law to \$1500.00 and in 1957 it was raised to \$2000.00. This amont is set by state law and assessed valuation of the district.

FIRE DISTRICT HISTORY

PURCHASE OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT OUT OF REGULAR BUDGIT

1944 1944	Paid Fire Company for small sirens.....	\$179.60
1945	Paid on new Fire Truck out of budgit money.....	650.00
1946	Battery charger, chains, heater for truck room 100ft 2½in hose, booster hose fpg nozzle, two smoke masks and 3 legths, 2½in suction etc.....	561.91
1947	150ft 2½in hose, 6 rubber coats, payment of \$100.00 on portable pump etc.	386.41
1948	payment \$198.10 bal. on portable pump, 50ft 2½in hose, 4prs boots, 3 helmets etc	371.02
1949	100ft 2½in hose, 3 helmets, 2nd siren control.....	314.71
1950	New 5hp siren \$460.00 siren tower misc.....	649.34
1951	Pump in fire house, Indian pumps (3) Expend 3 Co2 Fire extinguishers-2-5lb, and 1-15lb.....	345.00
	Transfer into reserve fund for future truck.....	500.00
1952	" " " " " " " "	500.00
1953	50ft 2½in hose, 100ft 1½in hose misc.	251.71
	Transfer to beserve fund.....	500.00
1954	" " " "	500.00
1955	Large Co2 extinguisher and misc.....	96.58
	Chevrolet truck chassis out of reserve fund	1000.00
1956	Total cost of tank for tanker including piping and painting.....	1384.91
	New short block for tanker motor.....	257.21
1957	Schoharie Co. for two way radio in two trucks, Cheifs car and alternator on ford.....	706.75
	2 smoke masks, first aid kit misc.....	240.21
	Transfer to reserve fund.....	400.00
1958	Radio station receiver; ; ; ; ;	175.00
	Galaway Equip. Co Dep. on front end pump.....	900.00
	rain coats and misc.....	72.27
1959	Balance on front end pump.....	650.00
	Ladder for tanker and two cab red lights.....	212.66
1960	Alternator for tank truck.....	279.80
	new tires for ford.....	256.44
	new tires for tank truck.....	310.00
1961	150ft lin hose (booster) for tanker, 50ft 2½in hose 1 fog gun, 100ft 1½in hose.....	445.00
	new chiefs siren and 50ft 1½in hose.....	105.00
1962	Two Scott air paks.....	455.00
	3 10ft 4½in suction and strainer for tanker.....	424.50

FIRE DISTRICT HISTORY

Final cost of Tank Truck (1962)

1955	Used 1953 Chevrolet chassis.....	\$1000.00
1956	New short block and moter repair.....	257.21
1956	Building of tank, piping and painting.....	1384.91
1958	Front end pump, 500 gal. per min.....	1550.00
1959	Ladder and red light on roof.....	84.96
1960	Alternator	279.80
1960	New tires.....	310.00
1961	150ft booster hose, fog gun, 50ft 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in hose 100ft 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in hose	445.00
1962	Two Scott air paks.....	455.00
1962	3 lengths 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in suction and strainer.....	425.50
	Total	<u>\$6191.38</u>

FIRE DISTRICT HISTORY

OFFICER RECORD

Feb.25,1942 through Dec.31,1942 Commissioners.. Anson Schoonmaker
Max Wise, Robert Shultes, Clifford Schell, and Marcus Zimmer.
Chester Zimmer, Treasurer.

Chester Zimmer remained treasurer through Dec.31, 1960 19yrs

Commissioners...

Edward Manchester Jan.1,1943 through Dec.31,1961 19yrs

Ross Snyder, Jan.1,1943 to August 17,1944 deceased

Martin Daring, Sept.11,1944 through May 30,1951 deceased

William Benninger, Jan.1,1943 through Dec.31, 1944
Oct. 1947

Max Wise, Feb.25,1942 through ~~Apr.25,1948~~ deceased

Harold Murphym Jan.1,1943 through Aug.15,1956 deceased

Percy Sherman, June 14,1951 to July 27,1954

William Sherman, July 27,1954 through Apr.16, 1956

Charles Bogardus, Sept.12,1947 through Dec.31,1962 15yrs

Myron Hoteling, Jan.1,1945-

Arkel Fancher, Apr. 16,1956

Karl Osolneek, Aug 20,1956-

Marcus Zimmer, Jan.1,1962-

Everette VanSteele, Jan 1, 1963-

Janette Osolneek, Treas. Jan.1, 1961-