

Oswego Town Fire Department History  
Researched from Oswego Town Board minutes

Oct, 80 – Bob Day approached town board with a petition with 332 signatures requesting to start a town fire department and ambulance

Nov, 80 – Minetto FD proposes contract for 1981 and 1982 at \$5,700/year  
Formed fire committee consisting of Fred Lockwood, Bob Raymond, Jack Slattery, Brian Kauffman, Bob Day and Gary Hall.

Dec, 80 – Bob Day again approached Town Board. Meeting was setup for 1/5/81 to discuss further possibilities of a town FD.

Jan, 81 – Fire committee with Hannibal FD to discuss contract for 1981

Feb, 81 – Fire Committee presented initial report to town board. Board told those interested in a town fire department to join Hannibal FD. Town Board motioned to have the fire committee continue with their research.

Mar, 81 – Signed contact with Minetto FD for 1981 for \$5,700  
Town board and fire committee to visit West Monroe FD on 3/16

Apr, 81 – Motion was made by the town board to let the people interested in starting a FD to incorporate to allow them to be able to attend classes and research purchasing some equipment.

May, 81 – OTVFD reports they have 20 residents and 7 college students interested in starting FD. They are working getting physicals and insurance.

Jul, 81 – Regular meeting public hearing on OTVFD incorporation cancelled due to not be advertised in the paper. Rescheduled for later in month.  
Special meeting was held and OTVFD was allowed to incorporate.

Feb, 82 – Town Board approved Minetto FD contract for 1982 for \$6,200 and 1983 for \$7,000.

Mar, 82 – OTVFD reports 35 men involved now in the FD. Brian Kauffman presents petition from 688 taxpayers to form a fire district. Pete Griffin presents petition from 171 taxpayers against forming a fire district. Town board motioned to disband the fire committee, passed 4-1.

May, 82 – Public Hearing on the Minetto FD contact. Contract to cover West 5<sup>th</sup> St, Rathburn Rd between West 5<sup>th</sup> St and Engles Rd., Furniss Station Rd from RR tracks to 5<sup>th</sup> St., Ridge Road from Ct Rt 20 to the Bennett Farm. Contract OK'd

Aug, 82 – Hannibal FD present contract request for \$44,598/year, Town board countered with \$25,000.

Oct, 82 – Town Board formed new fire committee consisting of John Goodney, Jim Lockwood, Pete Griffin, Bob Raymond, Brian Kauffman, Jim Regan, and Bob Baker. Special meeting held to discuss Hannibal FD contract. Town board offered Hannibal \$33,000/year. Ken Ellsworth states that they now have the manpower, a truck and a rented building and are ready to start operating.

Nov, 82 – Town board approved contract with Hannibal for \$44,518 for 1983

Dec, 82 – Scheduled public hearing for 12/27/82 on forming a fire district in the town. Decided to hire the OTVFD to do safety and fire inspections in the town.

Dec 27, 82 – Special meeting of the town board for the public hearing on the formation of a fire district. Committee decided to visit Granby to see what they could learn from them. After public hearing Town Board approves forming a Fire District. Appoints Robert Baker, Jim Lockwood, Jim Regan, John Goodney, and Robert Raymond as Fire Commissioners, terms to expire on 12/31/83.

Sep, 83 – Town Board grants the town attorney the authority to do work to finalize the formation of a Fire District in the town.

Nov, 83 – Town Board grants permission for the OTVFD to use the garage at southwest Oswego. OTVFD agrees to make necessary repairs.

Dec, 83 – Department discusses trying to get rid of “Duck”

Dec 5, 83 – Public Hearing on Fire Contracts. Approved contract with Hannibal for 1984 for \$26,710 to cover from the Hannibal town line to and including County Route 20. Approved contact with Minetto FD for \$7,700 for 1984 and \$8,470 for 1985 to cover same areas previously covered. Contract with OTVFD for \$21,808 for 1984 to cover North of County Rt 20 and California Rd, West of RR tracks excluding portions covered by Minetto contract. Authorized supervisor to negotiate a deal with the Oswego City FD and NOT Hannibal FD, for ambulance coverage for the town for 1984.

Jan, 84 – Appoints Robert Raymond, James Regan, James Lockwood, Robert Baker and John Goodney as Commissioners for the year 1984. Approval for the formation of the Town of Oswego Fire District was received from the state on 12/28/83. Town board agreed to plow the fire station parking lot. Bob Raymond elected chairman, Bob Baker, Sec't.

Feb, 84 – Town Board approved the OTVFD using the community center for FD training and pancake breakfasts. Appointed James Commerton as treasurer for the fire district. Fire Department approves purchase of a tanker from Fair Haven for \$1,500.

Mar, 84 – Department decides to repair some pump damage on Volney's borrowed truck and then return it to them. Agreed to purchase new tanker from Fair Haven.

Apr, 84 – New 3451 tanker now in service

May, 84 – Ted Todd elected first president of the department. Bob Weigelt, VP and Pat McLaughlin, Sec't.

Jun, 84 – 3452 tanker purchased and in service from Seneca River. Price \$150.00.  
District put in purchase offer on Paparo property 8 acres for \$1,500 per acre

Jul, 84 – Department still trying to get rid of "Duck". First report details calls responded to by the department for July – 3 EMS, 3 Alarms, 1 MVA, and 1 Mutual Aid.

Aug, 84 – District accepts only bid submitted for a new pumper. 3411 purchased for \$100,692. District establishes policy stating members must live within the Town of Oswego or within 1 mile of its border.

Sep, 84 – Department decided to purchase necessary equipment for new truck 3411.

Oct, 84 – Fire referendum vote scheduled for 10/5/84

Report given after department's first chicken BBQ. District notifies Hannibal VFD that their services will not be necessary in 1985.

Nov, 84 – Building making "good progress", main building framed and "addition" is complete.

Dec, 84 – Town board signed ambulance contract with Oswego City for 1984 and 1985 for \$75/call and \$3,000/year.

Jan, 85 – Department agrees to return borrowed truck from Scriba.

Current truck in service 3451, 3432 (1957 CGMC), 3441 (1957 Ford) and 3461.

Installed mailbox at station. District decides to join State Assoc of Fire Districts.

Feb, 85 – Air Cascade system installed in station.

Mar, 85 – Department allocates budget of \$800 for annual banquet. District received FCC license for base station radio, expires in 2/90.

4/85 – District purchases tanker from Fair Haven for \$2500.

Fall, 85 – Open house and dedication of new fire house.

Jun, 85 – Town board starts discussions with Metropolitan Water Board to install water in the West Lake Rd. area.

Department decided to put bid in on Minoa rescue truck for \$2,500.

July, 85 – District starts discussion with Scriba about the possibility of purchasing a truck from them.

Sept, 85 – District decides to put Dodge rescue/ambulance out to bid to try and sell.

\*\* Nov, 85 – Special meeting to establish fire district

Dec, 85 – Approved moving elections to the fire “barn”

Feb, 86 – State Police use station for command post for a murder investigation.

Jan, 86 – Banquet budget set at \$2,000

May, 86 – Current pumpers in service 3411 and 3442. Approved spending \$500 on BBQ pits.

Aug, 86 – Old rescue truck sold for \$2,500 or \$800

Oct. 86 – Department purchases Amkus Tool and Veter air bags for \$14,659.

Dec, 86 – Nick name committee formed

Jun, 87 – 3442 purchased for \$124,087 from Northern Fire.

July, 87 – 3432 removed from service.

Aug, 87 – Vote to try to give away 3432

Sep, 87 – District budget for 1988 - \$99,000

Oct, 87 – Agreed to give 3442 to Hammermill

Jan, 88 – FMC provided loaner truck (3442) due to delays in completing our truck.

Feb, 88 – District amended membership policy to be 1.5 road miles from any district border.

Apr, 88 – New tank for 3451 purchased for \$5,500. 3441 taken out of service.

May, 88 – Tanker being built

Jun, 88 – Blazing Bandits logo officially adopted.

Jul, 88 – Decided to donate 3441 to Indian reservation

Sep, 88 – District and Dept. take ads in newspaper in support of a new water system in the whole town.

Jul, 89 – Discussions started about beginning a service awards program.

Sep, 89 – Department holds first pig roast.

Oct, 89 – Department decision to purchase 3471 for \$20,000-\$21,000. Natural Gas service added to station.

Feb, 90 – 3471 arrives in station

Apr, 90 – 3411 pump DEAD

Aug, 91 – Rescue truck bids received – 1 bidder – Saulsbury \$178,000

Sep, 91 – Purchased storage boxes from Saulsbury for 3471 for \$1,600  
Referendum vote for purchase of new rescue truck passes 60 to 9  
1992 budget - \$142,860.

Dec, 91 – 3461 chassis arrives at Saulsbury

Jan, 92 – Purchased skid unit for 3471 for \$6,000

Jun, 92 – 3461 complete and delivered.  
Contracted with Bardan Construction to build new addition off rear of station.

Aug, 92 – Hope to break ground on new addition this month.

Sep, 92 – Donate old rescue truck to airport

Nov, 92 – Paperwork signed for service awards program.  
Removed 1968 Dodge rescue from insurance and out of service.

Jan, 93 – Service awards points system established retroactive to 1/1/92

Jun, 93 – Purchase first defibrillator for department

Nov, 93 – District establishes building use policy for department use only.

Mar, 94 – Purchased Cascade system for \$21,332.

Jul, 94 – Approved purchase of new Scott SCBA airpacks and spare bottles for \$31,618, to be financed over 5 years.

Oswego Town FD extrication team wins Eastern Ontario Auto Extrication competition in Canada.

Sept, 94 – Approved budget for 1995 @ \$173,000.  
Nov, 94 – County decides to change to plain language for all radio communications

Jan, 95 – Department decides to pursue advancing to ALS status

Feb, 95 – Turn out gear washing machine purchased and installed.

Jul, 95 – Purchased Plymovent system for station for \$23,500.  
4 people killed, 14 injured in Migrant Van accident on St Rt 104.

Aug, 95 – Department officially in service as First Response ALS Fire Department  
New department waverunner in service.  
Plymovent installed in station

Sep, 95 – Set 1996 Budget at \$178,000.

May, 96 – Order 3462 from Burritt Chevy.

Jul, 96 – formed committee for MCI trailer.

Sep, 96 – New 3462 delivered and sent out for radio, cabinetry and lighting.

Dec, 96 – 3462 in service.

Apr, 97 – Luverne Fire Apparatus successful bidder for new 3411

May, 97 – Department finally receives Tax Identification and Tax exempt #  
District signed contract with Luverne Fire Apparatus for new 3411 for \$339,138.

Fall, 97 – ISO rating reviewed.

Jan, 98 – Agreed to sell old 3411 for \$42,500.

Feb, 98 – Oswego Town FD assist in North Country Ice storm  
New 3411 delivered from Luverne in South Dakota

Mar, 98 – 3451 sold to Red Creek FD  
County paging frequency changed to high band. New Pagers issued.

Apr, 98 – Alcohol policy in effect, no alcohol allowed in station.  
1999 Budget - \$178,000

Jul, 98 – Department purchases new LifePak 12

Mar, 99 – 800 mhz radios in service.

Apr, 99 – Cold storage bids received awarded to Bardan for \$16,050.

Jun, 99 – Cold storage addition completed.

Jul, 99 – Department works Granby Center Food booth.

Sep, 99 – Greg's article on new 3411 published in Fire rescue magazine

Dec. 99 – Department starts ice rescue training/skills/equipment.

Jun, 00 – Department members install new baseball field for community use behind station.

Jul, 00 – Medical Leave policy established by district.

Water craft in service.

Department members install baseball field for community use.

Feb, 01 – District starts insurance on MCI trailer.

Apr, 01 – Station modifications approved. Contract awarded to Bardan for exterior work at \$65,880, interior work at \$7,885, and brick work by Dan Rupert at \$4954. Roof top siren officially taken out of service.

Jun, 01 – Exterior of fire station remodeled. New steel roof, brick façade, and siding installed. Roof top siren taken out service and removed from building.

Aug, 01 – 2002 budget set at 178,000. FEMA grant for training awarded for \$25,527.  
Explorer Post formed 8/16/01.

Sep, 01 – Explorer Post #34 formed. New BBQ pits built in rear of station.

Jan, 02 – Department purchases 2<sup>nd</sup> LifePak 12

Apr, 02 – Car Seat trailers insured.

July, 02 – Department took over responsibility for MCI trailer.

October 02 – Electric locks installed on exterior doors of station.

Sept, 02 – Basement closet contract awarded to Bardan for \$2,175.  
Bathroom remodeling awarded to Bardan for \$10,280.

Dec, 02 – Group of department members take NYC trip.

Apr, 03 – 4 day Ice Storm. Storm started at midnight on 4/3/03. Mutual aid received from 28 mutual aid fire departments and SAVAC. 2,075 volunteers man hours logged in the 5 day event. 250 alarms including 2 structure fires and a handful of EMS runs. Mutual Aid depts. Logged 1,100 manhours of volunteer time.

Oct, 03 – Jesse Weigand and Crystal Lamberti become the first 2 fire department members to get married to each other. Many departments members attended and 3411 served as the couple's limo.

Dec, 03 – Department receives \$60,000 FEMA grant for sprinklers, generator and air pack upgrades.

Apr, 04 – Joe Susino and Donna Roth become first 2 members to official participate in Special Olympics "Spring Splash" and take the plunge into the icy Lake Ontario.

Apr, 04 – Department celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a formal installation banquet held in Sheldon Hall on the SUNY Oswego campus. All members wore Class A uniforms for a formal celebration.

Summer, 04 – Fire District builds new 1,600 sq ft addition off rear of fire station to house new meeting room. The Fire District enters into a joint venture with the Oswego Town Board to also allow the Town Court and Oswego Town Senior Citizens group to also use the new facility. New Room opens Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

Jan, 05 – Fire District constructs new storage closet in truck bay area to house sprinkler system, air compressor and water main. Accommodations are also made for a secure storage area for the engineer and his supplies.

Feb, 05 – Department refinished old meeting room into a "Day Room". Now that the new meeting room is open in the rear of the station we decided to make a more comfortable area for members to hang out in during calls and after alarms.

Feb, 05 – New 3412 arrives to replace 3442. This truck is a 2004 Crimson pumper custom built for our department.