

Davenport Club Makes Plans To Construct Community Building

Davenport firemen had to call off their scheduled practice yesterday evening because of the weather but met at 7 p. m. for a general session and round-table discussion of the new department's future plans and needs. Eleven firemen were present and all agreed that because of the limited number of men in the community, for the time being the department would have to combine its business meetings with the Davenport Improvement club. The club's officials will comprise the governing body.

Chief Francis Gregory pointed out that with the water district established, there will not be much for the improvement club to do now other than handle emergencies arising within Newtown. That section is not in the water district but many residents of Newtown are club members.

Gregory urged all residents to give these organizations a few hours of their time as the work load on the few men striving to get the fire department in top shape is tremendous and much help and cooperation is needed.

Next practice of the department is set for Sunday morning at 9 o'clock at the Pacific school grounds.

Following the firemen's meeting, President Peter Novelli called to order the monthly meeting of the Improvement club at the Ocean View hotel. Secretary James Harris read the minutes of the previous session.

Harris, Charles Bella and Tillman Morelli were appointed to look over the various letters giving insurance quotations on the fire truck and firemen going to and from fires. This committee was allowed \$100 to purchase a suitable policy. Gregory said that until this is obtained the fire truck will not travel the highway for practices—only for actual fire calls.

The chief said there is considerable need of practices in Swanton, Newtown and Laguna areas and he urged the committee to obtain the insurance policy in a week's time.

Bella announced that in the near future a siren will be obtained and placed on the new pole in Davenport. The president suggested the old siren be given to Charles Brunart, an electrician, so that it could be put into working condition and located in Newtown.

Pete Labato has completed the electrical work in the temporary firehouse and a letter of thanks will be written by Harris to Labato for his good work.

Gregory said there is an urgent need for 400 feet of 1½-inch fire hose to be used when the hose now on the truck is drying after a fire or practice. He asked the board of directors to approve appointment of a committee to purchase the items needed without having to wait from meeting to meeting. His request was approved unanimously. Morelli and Jim Simunovich were named to this committee to work with the chief.

Committee reports were given on prospective sites for a new firehouse and Gregory said that the lot he had been studying had been turned down, but added that if a letter to the Coast Dairies and Land company meets approval, there is a good chance for an exchange of lots as they adjoin one another. The one he is after has a 20 by 60 foot concrete floor already in place and would cut down the expense considerably. Bella said he is contacting the Southern Pacific company concerning lots directly across from Gregory's service station. He said he feels this would be a good place for the start of a

community building, with much room for future expansion and with plentiful parking space.

Royal Smith of Newtown offered a lot for \$1 a year along with a donation of \$100 toward this project if the department would build its firehouse in Newtown. All of the sites mentioned are being studied by fire department and improvement club officials.

Gregory reported on an estimate on materials for a fire house drawn up by Frank McCrary of the Big Creek Timber company. The offer was lumber for a two-place garage, 20 by 50 feet in size, for \$400. All agreed that when the time comes for construction the McCrary offer should be accepted.

Bella presented a copy of emergency telephone numbers and suggested they be printed on attractive cards and delivered personally to every home in the fire protection area. The idea was approved and Secretary Harris will have 200 cards printed.

The fire chief said that letters of thanks to the many people who donated toward the fire truck are being prepared and he hopes to have them in the mail this month.

A St. Patrick's Day dance will be sponsored by the improvement club on Saturday, March 15, at the Ocean View hotel. There will be no charge and everyone will be welcome. The dance will honor the newly formed fire department and firemen. Peter Pianavilla will be in charge of refreshments and Novelli will obtain the music.

Gregory is in charge of getting a group of club members together for the March 17 blood donation at Santa Cruz.

It was decided to have coffee and doughnuts after all future meetings of the club and fire department, with Don Simunovich in charge.

3-7-52.