

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

of the

LIME ROCK FIRE DISTRICT, INC., 1085 Great Road, Lincoln RI 02865

Held July 13, 2010

CALL OF THE MEETING:

Mr. Ronald E. Rivet, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., July 13, 2010.

Present: Mr. Ronald E. Rivet, Mr. Mark Krieger, Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr., Mr. Paul Harrison, Chief Frank M. Sylvester, Office Manager/Tax Collector Ms. Lesley A. Heaton, Treasurer Ms. Christine E. Wood, Mrs. Margaret Lawton, and several firefighters.

Absent: Mr. James A. Fredrikson

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2010 MEETING:

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to accept the Minutes of the June 8, 2010 meeting. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

PUBLIC INPUT:

There was no Public Input.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to accept the Chief's Report as presented. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion.

Following questions from the Commissioners there was discussion relating to an evaluation being sent to businesses; National Fire Academy; and hard wire in three family houses.

After discussing the possibility of converting the two basement bathrooms at Station #1 into a records storage area to avoid the recurring flooding in the current room, the Chief was authorized to obtain quotes for a conversion.

The institution of a bereavement policy was discussed. Chief Sylvester and staff were charged with drawing up a non-specific policy to be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Mark Krieger asked to have the firefighter job evaluations shared with the Board. He was advised that it would have to be handled in Executive Session.

Chief Sylvester advised the Commissioners that Lime Rock raceway

in Connecticut had invited the firefighters to work in the pit on a paid detail. The Chief wanted to dispel any rumors that they were working on District time and that the District was paying them, or that the fire trucks were taken there. He clarified that the firefighters were being covered under the raceway's insurance.

With no further discussion, the Chief's Report was approved with all Commissioners in agreement.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's Report as presented. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion.

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Mr. Krieger questioned the fee that taxpayers were charged when making payment by credit card. Mr. Rivet had concerns regarding the encryption of information if the District accepted credit card payments on-site. He would follow-up directly with Point and Pay LLC to verify the encryption.

Ms. Heaton explained the tax sale process, and tangible splits to answer questions from Mr. Harrison.

The Tax Collector presented preliminary assessment, and potential

revenue figures. The Board had several questions, but Ms. Heaton stressed that the figures were only preliminary. She stated that actual figures should be available in August or September.

The Tax Collector's Report was then approved with all Commissioners in agreement.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

BILLS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:

Payroll Expenses: dated 06/03/10-07/07/10 in the amount of \$144,459.05

Interim Expenses: dated 06/05/10-07/07/10 in the amount of \$ 41,126.33

Non-Budgetary Interim Expenses: dated 06/05/10-07/07/10 in the amount of \$ 12,537.39

Bills for Initial Approval dated 07/09/10-07/09/10 in the amount of \$ 1,638.11

Total: \$199,760.88

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to approve the Bills

Submitted for Approval as presented in the amount of \$199,760.88.

Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion.

When Mr. Harrison questioned “non-budgetary” expenses, Ms. Wood explained it was income from sources other than tax revenue, such as grants, and insurance claims.

The Bills Submitted for Approval were then approved with all Commissioners in agreement.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Out Injured Benefit Policy

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of adopting an Injured in the Line of Duty policy that itemized the benefits versus a policy simply stating that it mirrored Rhode Island § 45-19-1. Mr. Turner asked how clothing allowance would be handled. It was decided that that would be at the Board’s discretion where time of service and length of absence would be considered.

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion for the District to adopt an Injured in the Line of Duty Benefit policy that would be in accord with Rhode Island § 45-19-1 et. seq. Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

2. Rules and Regulations

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to accept the Rules and

Regulations as presented. Mr. Mark Krieger seconded the motion for purposes of discussion. He stated the content was archaic and militaristic, with many opportunities for infraction.

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Ms. Wood explained the wording had been simplified, policies or procedures that were no longer used, especially relating to volunteers, were deleted, repetition had been deleted, and some reorganization had been done to put things in a more logical order. She and the Chief explained one addition pertaining to vacation leave. For those earning an additional cycle of vacation with an anniversary date in July or later, the additional cycle would have to be taken after the following January to alleviate year-end scheduling problems.

The motion to accept the Rules and Regulations as presented then passed with all Commissioners in agreement with the provision that in December it would be addressed again to deal with some of the issues brought up by Mr. Krieger.

3. Motor Vehicle Taxation

The Tax Collector explained that a motor vehicle tax rate would have to be set at \$1.60 per thousand, which was the rate prior to the Phase-out. Town assessment figures would be used. With some

confusion about the actual details of the law, Chief Sylvester said that copies of the legislation would be forwarded to the Board members.

Ms. Heaton advised the Board that the districts in town planned to meet with their tax collectors and a representative from their boards to discuss whether they would tax motor vehicles or not.

The Commissioners asked Ms. Heaton to determine how much revenue would be generated if the minimum tax bill was increased from \$15 to \$25.

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business was discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No Correspondence was presented.

Chief Sylvester noted that he had been invited to speak at the hearing to discuss elimination of the Water Commission. He said he spoke to the importance of the Commission's work to earn a very high ISO rating. The outcome of the hearing was to maintain the status quo.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Wood

Recording Secretary

cc: R. Rivet, M. Krieger, C. Turner, P. Harrison, J. Fredrikson, file

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