

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

of the

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

Held September 14, 2010

CALL OF THE MEETING:

Mr. Ronald E. Rivet, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., September 14, 2010.

Present: Mr. Ronald E. Rivet, Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr., Mr. Mark Krieger, Mr. Paul Harrison, Mr. James A. Fredrikson, Chief Frank M. Sylvester, Office Manager/Tax Collector Ms. Lesley A. Heaton, Treasurer Ms. Christine E. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Theroux (late arrival), and several firefighters.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 31, 2010 MEETING:

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the August 31, 2010 meeting. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

PUBLIC INPUT:

No one signed up for Public Input.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

Mr. Mark Krieger asked if the Health & Safety Officer had turned in his report late, noting that none had been received in the previous month. Chief Sylvester was asked to determine the Officer's intent.

Chief Sylvester stated that the 800MHz radios received through a grant awarded to the Town were not as effective as the existing equipment since there was no tower in the northern part of the state. The intent was for the entire state to use the same equipment. Training had yet to be made available to the Department in the use of the new radios.

Mr. Mark Krieger noted that the training line item did not seem sufficient for all of the firefighters taking courses.

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. thanked FFs Dupont and Dean for their efforts coordinating the MDA drive. Chief Sylvester thanked FF Amaral for setting up the 9/11 memorial service. He noted that each of these firefighters were receiving letters.

Mr. Paul Harrison inquired about the publicity regarding the

garaging/taxation of Chief Sylvester's cars at Station #1. The Chief reviewed the history of the issue and that it appeared to be a personal attack on him by Mr. John Cullen. He referred to Mr. Cullen's past tax problems. The Board members stated they had no problem with Chief Sylvester leaving his personal vehicles at the station.

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

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to elevate FF Bethel from a "B" firefighter to an "A", and FF Russo from a "C" to a "B" effective immediately. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. James Fredrikson made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's Report as presented. Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr.

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seconded the motion.

Mr. Krieger questioned some of the information contained in the Assessors Statement of Assessed Valuations and Tax Levy. Ms. Heaton told him she would obtain a list from the Town Tax Assessor to show the various organizations in the different categories.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was then approved with all Commissioners in agreement.

BILLS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL:

Payroll Expenses:	dated 08/06/10-09/09/10 in the amount of \$130,528.10
Interim Expenses:	dated 08/07/10-09/09/10 in the amount of \$ 36,830.56
Non-Budgetary Interim Expenses:	dated 08/06/10-09/09/10 in the amount of \$ 25,281.74
Bills for Initial Approval	dated 09/10/10-09/10/10 in the amount of \$ 1,919.17
Total:	\$194,559.57

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to approve the Bills Submitted for Approval as presented in the amount of \$194,559.57. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to give Chief Sylvester the authority

to approve all payments necessary after September 14, 2010 until October 4, 2010, not to exceed \$5,000. Invoices in excess of \$5,000 would have to receive Board approval. Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to reallocate any line item overages through October 31, 2010. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion authorizing the Treasurer to fund the Accrued Benefits line item in the amount of \$5,000 prior to the Annual Meeting. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

Following discussion about insurance coverage, Ms. Wood was asked to invite Mr. Brad Preston of VFIS to the next regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Motor Vehicle Taxation

Mr. Krieger said he had spoken with Mr. Joseph Coduri from the State regarding minimum tax bills and collection fees. He issued copies of RI General Law 44-34-2 stating there could be no minimum tax bills. Mr. Coduri had said the tax rate was frozen at the 1998 rate of \$1.80 per thousand, but Tax Collector's official documents showed it at

\$1.60. Mr. Krieger was unsuccessful in trying to get in touch with Mr. James Neary regarding the \$25 collection fee.

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion that no motor vehicle tax bill for less than \$5.00 would be issued. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to make the tax rate for motor vehicles, per State law, at the 1998 rate of \$1.60 per thousand, unless the Tax Collector determines the State's record of \$1.80 was correct.

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr.

seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

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2. Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget

• The Treasurer was asked to work with VFIS to obtain lower rates. There was lengthy discussion about the pros and cons to change the renewal dates to correspond with the fiscal year to obtain more realistic estimates for budgeting. It was agreed to budget for six months to cover policies from May through October.

• Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to increase the Travel Allowance to \$2,500. Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

- Following discussion on the number of additional firefighters planning to take courses, Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to increase Training to \$10,000. Mr. Mark Krieger seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.
- Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to approve the draft budget at \$2,223,509. Mr. Mark Krieger seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tax Payments via Credit Cards

Mr. Rivet had previously questioned the encryption of information that would be sent when making tax payments with a credit card reader. After communicating with the company handling it he was comfortable with their encryption capabilities.

2. Tax Rate

The Tax Collector prepared tax levy reports for different tax rates using the Opal Data program. The Commissioners compared the rates versus the revenue needed to support the budget.

3. Cell Tower

A letter from the leaseholder for the cell tower was reviewed. The Commissioners were open to hearing an offer for the land.

4. Review Annual Meeting Agenda

- The order of some items on the draft Agenda were changed.

- After involved discussion, Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to set the tax rate at \$2.25 per thousand. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement. This change and the effective rate of \$1.47 after the Homestead Exemption were changed on the draft Agenda.
- It was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting at the Lincoln High School.

5. Informational Meeting

The Commissioners agreed to hold an informational meeting on September 30, 2010 in the Lincoln Council Chambers (if available). In an effort to economize on advertising expenses, notice for this meeting would be incorporated into the newspaper ads for the Annual Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Wood read two letters of thanks for professional services rendered and one from a past firefighter following a visit to the station where he was amazed at the changes made since he had left.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Mark Krieger made Mr. Rivet's requested motion to adjourn to Executive Session in accordance with Section 42-46-5 of the Exemptions of Chapter 46 of the General Laws pursuant to Section 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss anticipated litigation. Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, Mr. Krieger, Mr. Turner, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Fredrikson, and also Mr. Rivet agreed to adjourn to

Executive Session for the stated purpose at 8:20 p.m.

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ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, Mr. Krieger, Mr. Turner, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Fredrikson, and also Mr. Rivet agreed to adjourn from Executive Session at 9:06 p.m.

Mr. Charles N. Turner, Jr. made a motion in open session to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, Mr. Krieger, Mr. Turner, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Fredrikson, and also Mr. Rivet agreed to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. James A. Fredrikson seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles N. Turner, Jr.
Secretaries

Christine E. Wood

Recording