

Kingston Fire District

Wardens' Meeting

27 April 2006

Call to order: Vice President Donald Packer called The Kingston Fire District (KFD) Board of Wardens' meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Also present were Wardens, John Oberle and Vincent Rose, Chief Nathan Barrington, Treasurer Tom Vignali, Tax Collector Linda Mendillo, and Office Manager Lois Winn. One member of the general public was present. President Elizabeth McNab and Warden Lori Horton were absent.

MOTION: Rose made and Oberle seconded a motion to accept the Secretary's Report.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the last meeting were distributed. A correction was made to the URI contract Resolution #1.

The motion to accept the Secretary's Report as amended passed. Oberle abstained.

The list of bills for April were distributed and signed by the Wardens.

MOTION: Rose made and Oberle seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report: Vignali presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported \$36,374 in the operating account with receivables of \$133,262.47, which includes \$72,300.50 from URI, \$49,820.97 from

RIEMA and \$10,991 from fire details. The \$35,000 from the New Orleans trip has not been received but is in process.

Vignali said that the expenses in the equipment line item are being reviewed to ensure they are posted correctly.

The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report passed unanimously.

MOTION: Rose made and Oberle seconded a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report.

Tax Collector's Report: Mendillo reported that she had sent final notices to two taxpayers by certified mail. She had received one receipt back and the other was never picked up. It was agreed an attempt should be made to phone the taxpayer who did not reply before referring both accounts to a title company.

The motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report passed unanimously.

URI Report: No one was present from URI and there was no written report.

Chiefs' Report: Barrington suggested the Chiefs' report be put off since the agenda was so full. He did mention a need to approve the Respiratory Policy. Rose also mentioned a need to put all the policies into one format.

Warden Lori Horton arrived.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Personnel Issue: A resident firefighter came before the Board to discuss a personnel issue and appeal a decision to suspend him from residency. The firefighter was asked if he wished the meeting to be closed. He declined.

After a discussion it was agreed the firefighter would be allowed to maintain residency on a probationary status until the July 2006 Wardens' meeting at which time his performance would be reevaluated

Audit RFP: The RFP for the audit was discussed. It was agreed the bid should be for a three year period and that it would be advertised in the Narragansett Times, Providence Journal and South County Independent.

Warden Lori Horton arrived.

URI Negotiations: Nate reported that the meeting with Wyman had gone well but that nothing would be done until after the Annual Meeting. He said that Wyman reported URI's budget was not being increased and that they believed URI was paying too high a percentage of KFD's overall budget. Wyman also expressed that by having membership on the Board URI could help KFD save money

Rose said there would be a conflict of interest appointing URI representatives to the Board since KFD had a contract with them. Horton agreed there would be a conflict as well as setting a precedent, and would other major taxpayer then want to be appointed to the Board? The Wardens also questioned why URI did not attend meetings or participate in the finance committee.

Discussion was held on flat funding of the budget by URI and their request that reserves be used. Barrington stated that KFD should be building reserves not depleting them. He said that a truck could fail, and in three years there would be no funds for a down payment on a new truck. In addition, reserves might be needed for increased fuel costs, which could not be estimated.

Horton noted that URI paid a higher percentage because of the high-rise buildings and chemicals present in some buildings that made it more expensive to service URI than the homes in the rest of the district.

At a meeting Wyman had mentioned reducing the detail rates and perhaps charging lower rates for charitable events. Barrington said last year KFD lost money on details. Another concern was how a charitable event would be determined.

It was agreed the resolutions for the Annual Meeting, decided upon at

the March meeting, would be placed in the Narragansett Times, South County Independent and Providence Journal.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 25 May 2006 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment: Horton made and Oberle seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois K. Winn

Office Manager