

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF FIRE WARDENS OF THE LONSDALE
FIRE DISTRICT, INC. , 224 Front Street, Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865**

**EMERGENCY MEETING HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015 at the
Lonsdale Fire Department, 224 Front Street, Lincoln, Rhode Island
02865**

**PRESENT: Mr. Joseph Tashash, Mr. Michael Babbitt, Mr. Bradford
Booth and Mr. Kevin Farrell**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.,
Saturday, June 6, 2015.**

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2015 EMERGENCY MEETING:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to convene the emergency
meeting. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion
passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash explained that the reason for the emergency
meeting is the district's financial situation.**

**Mr. Michael Babbitt stated that the district is in a financial emergency.
As of 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2015 the district had \$14,456.37 in**

its checking account, \$858.76 in its money market account and \$4.13 in its savings account.

The subcommittee to address the district's financial situation met with Town Administrator Almond and State officials. The subcommittee recommended to the Board that the Board immediately lay-off all full-time firemen, part-time firemen and callmen.

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to immediately lay-off all full-time firemen, part-time firemen and callmen. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Saylesville Fire District will provide fire coverage to the district and respond to all calls made to the Lonsdale Fire District. Negotiations are ongoing with the Saylesville Fire District for the cost of this coverage which will be charged on a per month basis. All mutual aid agreements remain in effect. Rescue services will continue to be provided by the Town from the Lonsdale firehouse as normal.

Mr. Michael Babbitt explained that the district is unable to obtain additional revenue from its \$100,000 line of credit or under a \$50,000 tax anticipation note that has been utilized by the district for the past several years because neither bank will extend additional funding to

the district until a financial plan is in place. Additionally, it is unclear if the district is able to borrow against its line of credit without an affirmative vote of the district's residents. Without additional revenue to pay the district's firefighters the district is prohibited by state law from asking the firefighters to continue to work. The current collective bargaining agreement prevents the district from operating with a workforce composed entirely of volunteer firemen.

The State is continuing to act in an advisory role to the district providing legal and financial advice. If the State were to come in to formally address the district's financial situation it would cost the district approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000.

There is approximately \$150,000 in back taxes owed to the district. The district owes approximately \$340,000 on the 40 year low interest loan from the USDA that was used to renovate the firehouse. Liquidation of any of the district's assets would require an affirmative vote of the district's residents. The district is limited to a 5% increase in the tax rate per year with any increase requiring an affirmative vote of the district's residents at the annual meeting.

Tax Collector Tim Griffin stated that the large piece of property that the district took ownership of due to the non-payment of taxes was redeemed by the owner.

The district's insurance carrier should be notified that fire coverage

will be provided by the Saylesville Fire District.

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to amend the previously passed motion to specify that all firefighters, full-time, part-time and callmen, employed as firefighters are immediately laid-off. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Joseph Almond stated that the firefighters' health insurance is provided through the Town and that there is no reason to act immediately on their health coverage due to their change in employment status. Tim Griffin stated that the firefighters have health coverage through the end of June.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

TIM GRIFFIN, DISTRICT CLERK BRADFORD BOOTH, SECRETARY