

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

**HELD WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015 at the Lincoln Housing Authority,  
10 Franklin 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 7:01 p.m.,  
Wednesday, July 15, 2015.**

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2015 MEETING:**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

**Mr. Michael Babbitt presented a list of all outstanding bills that total  
\$7783.53.**

**As of Wednesday, July 17, 2015 the District has \$3565.32 in its  
Coastway Credit Union checking account, \$30,722.61 in its  
Blackstone Valley Credit Union checking account, \$858.83 in its  
money market account and \$9.13 in its savings account.**

**The current balance on the 40-year term USDA loan is \$313,564.99.**

**The Accident and Sickness Insurance policy was cancelled saving a payment of \$28,633. The District is in the process of obtaining a liability policy for when Tim Griffin is in the firehouse.**

**Current pension obligations for Acting Chief Ryan and Captain Gorman are \$8715.71.**

**The \$50,000 tax anticipation note may be available pending a formalized service agreement with the Saylesville Fire District regarding services provided to this District.**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to accept and pay the outstanding bills. Mr. Kevin Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2015 meeting. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The response letter to Jason Rhodes, Chief of Emergency Medical**

**Services at the Rhode Island Department of Health updating him on the District's provision of emergency medical services will be sent tomorrow.**

**The Social Security Administration is requesting from the District W-2s from the 2013 tax year. The W-2s will be located and sent to the SSA.**

### **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

**No formal Fire Chief's Report was prepared for this meeting.**

**According to Lieutenant Adam Pontbriant, from June 17, 2015 to today's date the Saylesville Fire District responded to 44 calls within the District and to 23 calls outside of the District that Lonsdale would have responded to as an additional responder pursuant to mutual aid agreements. Additionally, pursuant to automatic aid agreements, the Lime Rock Fire District responded to 4 calls within the District that Saylesville was unable to respond to because it was already out on a call.**

### **WARDEN'S REPORT**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash stated that there is no formal Warden's report**

**and all information will be provided during old and new business.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mr. Michael Babbitt presented his analysis of the District's yearly budget for the last 5 years based only on data available to him. The District was a total of approximately \$202,000 over-budget over the last 5 years. The largest budget items in order are salaries, pension payments, truck maintenance and overtime pay. No audit report was created for 2014.**

**Mr. Michael Babbitt stated a very preliminary annual budget projection of approximately \$604,000 going forward based on examination of the last 5 years of annual budgets. Ideally the District should get to the point of building up a surplus of approximately 10% of the annual budget.**

**Some invoices from past years cannot be located to be matched up against monthly bank statements. The bank is starting to provide copies of checks issued to fill in the blanks. Mr. Joseph Tashash stated that in the past invoices for monthly bills were not presented by the former Treasurer.**

**As of July 7, 2015, the total of real property taxes outstanding is \$94,054.44, inclusive of principal and interest. Most arrearages are**

**only for one tax year. The District historically waits for taxes to be unpaid for 3 years before conducting a tax sale.**

**The District's website is hosted by Rescue worker Mike Gleason. The Board is working to obtain full control over the website.**

**Taxpayers suggested that the Board should consider issuing a press release and including an insert to accompany the tax bill informing taxpayers about the status of the District.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A) Update on District Financials**

**The District's current financial situation was already discussed.**

### **B) Report from Saylesville subcommittee**

**There have been 2 meetings with Saylesville's subcommittee and Town Administrator Almond regarding the terms of Saylesville's coverage of the District. The proposed fee is \$11,250 per month, based on an estimated 50 calls per month at \$225 per call. Approximately 78% of the calls are rescue calls. Saylesville would agree to defer payments until the District begins collecting taxes. The Board will review the proposed service agreement.**

**According to Lieutenant Adam Pontbriant Saylesville has not hired any additional firefighters and has not made any extra additions to any shifts since providing coverage to the District.**

**The State Fire Marshall is taking over all fire inspections within the District, both residential and commercial. The Board will find out who gets billed for this service.**

**C) Report from Open Meetings Act and Access to Public Records Act subcommittee**

**Attorney Baluch provided information to Sharon Higgins in accordance with the Attorney General's May 21, 2015 ruling. No response to this information has been received by Attorney Baluch or the District.**

**Mr. Bradford Booth will attend the Attorney General's Open Government Summit on July 31.**

**Taxpayers suggested that the District's website should more prominently feature notice of meetings and agendas.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

## **Date for Monthly Warden's Meeting**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to change the date of the Board's monthly meetings to 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month for all 12 months of the calendar year. Mr. Bradford Booth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The District's next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Housing Authority, 10 Franklin Street.**

## **ADJOURMENT**

**Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

---

  

---

**TIM GRIFFIN, DISTRICT CLERK    BRADFORD BOOTH, SECRETARY**