

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

HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 at Lincoln Housing Authority, 10 Franklin Street, Lincoln, RI 02865

PRESENT: Mr. Michael Babbitt, Mr. Michael Skenyon and Mr. Kevin Farrell

ABSENT: Mr. Joe Tashash, Mr. John Picozzi

Mr. Babbitt called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., Wednesday, October 21, 2015

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

MONTHLY BILLS: Mike Babbitt presented the balances in the District checking accounts and noted that the District currently has total funds of \$131,433.00

The outstanding monthly bills were presented with supporting documentation for review and approval. Mr. Farrell motioned to approve the bills, Mr. Skenyon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the September meeting were unavailable to be reviewed at the time of the meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT: A question was asked about the fire fighters healthcare fund as it relates to recent reports of improprieties. The treasurer reported that while funds may have been misappropriated

from the healthcare account, the healthcare account is not controlled by the Lonsdale Fire District. A former employee of the District had access to the healthcare account and the Lonsdale operating account. However, the treasurer noted that as of the time of the meeting he is not aware of any funds at all being missing from the Lonsdale Fire District. Any outside investigation that is under way relating to the healthcare account is not part of the District.

The status of prior financial information was discussed. The Board was provided with records from the prior treasurer with the assistance of the RI State Police. While the prior financial information has not yet been verified it was noted that deficit spending was reported in 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014 with a cumulative deficit of approximately \$202,000. Key line items that contributed to the deficit spending included: personnel costs and maintenance. As to why the situation was allowed to occur the current treasurer noted that the parties that were not reporting prior items correctly included: the tax collector and chief, the former treasurer and the prior Board of Wardens.

A discussion of an audit was discussed and accounting firms are in the process of being identified that will be interviewed for the engagement.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: No formal Fire Chief's report was available.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Saylesville Service Agreement was ratified by the Board

NEW BUSINESS:

The District audit was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Legal fees related to the Saylesville Service Agreement were discussed. It was unclear if fees relating to prior merger talks were being included as part of the Service Agreement. The Board noted that the any prior merger discussions were separate from the Service Agreement and should be reviewed separately.

Adjournment: Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Mike Babbitt and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Kevin Farrell, SECRETARY