

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

**HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 at the Christ Church Parish
Hall, 1643 Lonsdale Avenue, 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 7:03 p.m.,
Thursday, September 17, 2015.**

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 MEETING:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

**Mr. Michael Babbitt presented a list of all outstanding bills that total
\$7991.75.**

**As of Thursday, September 17, 2015 the District has \$3565.32 in its
Coastway Credit Union checking account, \$30,772.61 in its
Blackstone Valley Credit Union checking account and \$858.83 in its
money market account.**

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. Bradford Booth made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2015 meeting. Mr. Kevin Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board received a report entitled "Fiscal/Operational Review of Lonsdale Fire District 2015" from Town Administrator Almond. Mr. Bradford Booth stated that it would be premature for the Board to adopt the factual findings and recommendations for potential courses of action contained in Town Administrator Almond's report as its own given the Board is still conducting its own independent investigation.

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to accept as correspondence the report entitled "Fiscal/Operational Review of Lonsdale Fire District 2015" from Town Administrator Almond. Mr. Kevin Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Copies of "Fiscal/Operational Review of Lonsdale Fire District 2015" report were circulated to the taxpayers in attendance.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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

Mr. Michael Babbitt stated that the Saylesville Fire District responded to 50 calls on behalf of the District, 49 of which were within the District and 1 of which the District would have responded to as an additional responder pursuant to mutual aid agreements.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Mr. Joseph Tashash stated that there is no formal Warden's report and that all information will be provided during old and new business.

As was stated at last month's meeting, this item needs to be removed from the agenda in the future.

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to table the Warden's report. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Michael Babbitt spoke with John Flynn regarding Mr. Flynn's letter to the Valley Breeze. Mr. Michael Babbitt reminded him, among other things, that the Saylesville Fire District has provided the District

with continuous fire protection coverage since June 6, 2015 and that the Town of Lincoln rescue service operating out of the station is still provided.

As of Thursday, September 17, 2015 the District has collected \$51,920 in taxes for the 2015 tax year.

The District's only expense for personnel is unemployment insurance; there is no one on the payroll. The District's pension obligations are paid through 2014. The pension payment for 2015 will not be known until December. All of the District's bills, including its health care payments, are current.

The District has organized the past 18 months of financial records to build a budget going forward. Based on past budgets it would cost approximately \$75,000/month to operate the station full time. The District's tax base is shrinking which will affect future budgets.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Maintenance of station equipment

Town rescue workers are currently maintaining the District's equipment and are keeping a log of their weekly maintenance activities. No issues or problems with the equipment have been

found.

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

The District has 3 pending APRA requests. A search of relevant records is in progress to ensure a timely response to each request.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Ratification and Taxpayer Approval of Saylesville Service Agreement

Negotiations with the Saylesville Fire District have continued amicably. Saylesville's final requested revisions to the Service Agreement were discussed.

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to strike the requested additional language at the end of the first paragraph in section 3 regarding the payment of Saylesville's legal fees associated with the service agreement and approve the remainder of the entire Service Agreement. Mr. Kevin Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to the District's by-laws the taxpayers also need to approve

the Service Agreement. Mr. Bradford Booth reviewed the terms of the Service Agreement. The taxpayers voted to approve the Service Agreement unanimously by a vote of 35 to 0.

B) Taxpayer Authorization for Legal Fees Expenditures

Mr. Bradford Booth made a motion to authorize the Board to spend up to \$20,000 on future legal fees. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to the District's by-laws the taxpayers also need to approve the expenditure of up to \$20,000 on future legal fees by the Board. The taxpayers voted to authorize the Board to spend up to \$20,000 on future legal fees by a vote of 33 to 0 with 2 abstentions.

A liability policy is in place to defend against any legal actions against the Board.

C) Date for Monthly Warden's Meeting

Mr. Bradford Booth made a motion to change the date of the Board's monthly meetings back to the usual date and time of 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month for all 12 months of the calendar year at the Lincoln Manor. Mr. Joseph Tashash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D) Filling vacant position on Board of Wardens

Mr. Bradford Booth resigned his position on the Board of Wardens effective immediately due to his new employment with the State of Rhode Island.

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to appoint Michael Skenyon to the Board of Wardens. Mr. Kevin Farrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to appoint John Picozzi to the Board of Wardens. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Joseph Tashash made a motion to appoint Michael Skenyon to the subcommittee to explore the viability of a district merger and to the subcommittee to conduct investigations and address administrative issues and to appoint John Picozzi to the subcommittee to engage in negotiations with the firefighters' union and to the Open Meetings Act and Access to Public Records Act subcommittee. Mr. Michael Babbitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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 8:41 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,