

Lonsdale Fire District
Annual Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2016

The annual meeting of the Lonsdale Fire District was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at the Lincoln Housing Authority Community Room, at 10 Franklin Street, Lincoln, RI. Wardens Babbitt, Booth and Skenyon were present.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm. Warden Babbitt made a motion to amend the Minutes in order to elect a Moderator and Clerk. This motion was seconded by Warden Skenyon. Motion passed 3-0. Warden Babbitt made a motion to elect John Winter as Moderator. This motion was seconded by Warden Skenyon, and the motion was passed, 3-0. Warden Babbitt then made a motion to elect Jennifer Driscoll as Clerk. This was also seconded by Warden Skenyon. Motion passed, 3-0.

The Clerk then read the Meeting Notice, that had been posted in the Valley Breeze, at the Lonsdale fire station and at the public library.

Warden Babbitt read the Meeting Minutes from the March 23rd, 2016 meeting. Warden Skenyon made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes as they were read and Warden Booth seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0.

Warden Babbitt read this month's account balances and bills. Warden Skenyon made a motion to accept the report, and Warden booth seconded. Motion passed, 3-0.

David Almond, Tax Collector, read a combined Tax Assessor's and Tax Collector's Report. Motion was made to accept. It was seconded. Motion passed, 3-0.

Warden Booth spoke regarding the audit to be completed. At this time, there is no Auditor's Report, and that the audit would be discussed under "new business".

Warden Babbitt read the Fire Warden's Report, which was detailed the intentions of the Fire Board in regards to surrendering the Lonsdale Fire District's charter. Motion was made to accept the report, and it was seconded. Motion passed, 3-0.

Warden Babbitt read the Fire Chief's Report. From June 2015 to December 31st, 2016, there was 372 calls within the Lonsdale district. A motion to accept the report was made and seconded. Motion passed, 3-0.

Under "Old Business"; Warden Skenyon made a motion to approve the by-law change introduced at the 2/9/2015, annual meeting. This changed the start time of the annual meetings from 8 p.m. to 7 p.m. This motion was seconded by Warden Babbitt. Motion passed, 3-0.

Under “New Business”; Warden Booth provided an update regarding the audit of the district’s financial status. The Request for Proposals awaiting approval from the Auditor General. Once approved, it will be advertised in the Providence Journal. Warden Babbitt then reported that there is no further information regarding the Lonsdale Fire District surrendering its charter. Once the audit is completed, the board will present the resolution to dissolve the charter to voters, after appropriate advertising in the Valley Breeze, at the Lonsdale fire station and public library.

Moderator John Winter then made a motion to elect Wardens Babbitt, Booth, Farrell, Picozzi and Skenyon for the Lonsdale Fire Board. This motion was seconded by Jeffery Almond. The Clerk cast one ballot for the five incumbent wardens. Motion passed.

Warden Babbitt was elected as Treasurer of the Fire Board. This motion was seconded by the Moderator. The Clerk cast one ballot for the Treasurer.

Warden Babbitt presented a budget of \$263, 045.95 for 2016. Warden Skenyon made a motion to accept the budget and it was seconded by Jeffrey Almond. Motion passed, 12-0 among voters,

Warden Babbitt presented the tax rate for 2016 as follows:

Residential - \$1.90

Commercial - \$1.90

Tangible Assets - \$6.82

Auto - \$3.00

Warden Skenyon made a motion to accept the tax rate. William Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion passed, 12-0 among voters.

Motion was made to amend Meeting Minutes to include public comments by Warden Babbitt. Seconded by Warden Skenyon. Motion passed, 3-0.

Mr. Jim Spooner stated he has not supported what has historically been done to the district of Lonsdale, specifically in regards to concerns of gerrymandering. He also stated that he does not agree with what has to be done to the fire district, and expressed a desire for a fire commissioner that would lead volunteers out of the Lonsdale station.

Ms. Pat Johnston expressed concern with a recent incident where she required the assistance of the Saylesville Fire Department, but was told that she was a “liability” and therefore, they could not provide any assistance in the matter. This was promptly address by the Saylesville Fire Marshall, who was in attendance.

With no other comments, the Moderator made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Warden Babbitt seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0.