

# Lonsdale Fire District

## Meeting Minutes

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Lonsdale Fire District was held on Wednesday, June 22nd, 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 7:06 pm by Warden Babbitt.

Warden Babbitt discussed correspondence, which focused on the legislation to dissolve the Lonsdale Fire District's charter not having been voted on before the summer recess. Representative O'Grady was present, along with Town Administrator Almond, and Councilman Ogni. Representative O'Grady assured those in attendance that he would do what he can to have the House review the legislation as soon as possible in January. Warden Babbitt continued to discuss that the Board would cease paying health insurance by the end of the month. As of this meeting, the acting chief did not have the necessary qualifications to be offered a position in the department, one firefighter has been employed on Johnston, two others on Tiverton, and a fifth firefighter is not currently employed in a fire fighting related job. Warden Booth continued to discuss that the bids for the audit are in and are to be reviewed by the board. A company will be chosen at the next meeting. There will also be a meeting with the Saylesville board on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:30 pm, at the Senior Center. Saylesville Fire will have to hire more people to cover the Lonsdale district, and the monthly fee to cover these services is expected to increase.

Warden Booth read aloud total account balances, deposits, and outstanding bills and expenses. Warden Booth made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion was seconded by Warden Skeyon. Motion passed 3-0.

Warden Skeyon made a motion to defer reading the minutes from the previous meeting until the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Warden Babbitt. Motion passed 3-0. The clerk gave a brief summary of the previous meeting's discussion, which included the insurance ending this month for the laid off firefighters, what occurred during the legislation hearing, the contractual obligation pay-outs, and that the advertisement for the audit bid was being extended due to amendments being mailed.

For Public Comment, the issue of the legislation not being voted on was again discussed. The main issue that arose in negotiations was the issue of the Saylesville Fire Board not wanting to hire from a list of firefighters (in order of seniority) from Lonsdale and concerns from the firefighters' union regarding what is still owed to the laid off personnel. Further discussion includes next steps, such as the possibility of selling apparatus. Warden Babbitt reported that the Cobra letters have been sent out.

There was no Chief's Report to read. Warden Booth made a motion to defer reading it until the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Babbitt. Motion passed 3-0.

For “old business”, Warden Babbitt reiterated what had been already discussed regarding the legislation not being voted on, and that the Board will do whatever it takes to work through this. He also reported that the Board gave up their stipend to work through the last 18 months, but that this would not be possible going forward.

Warden Booth expressed concern that waiting until the next meeting could threaten the bids for the audit, as workloads and availability from these companies could change in the meantime and therefore negatively impact the Lonsdale audit. He suggested selecting a bid sooner, to ensure that this company would be able to complete the work as proposed. Warden Babbitt proposed to meet before the Saylesville meeting, at the Senior Center, at 6 PM. Motion seconded by Warden Skenyon. Motion passed 3-0.

Warden Babbitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm. Warden Skenyon seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Driscoll, Clerk