

Lonsdale Fire District

Meeting Minutes

July 26th, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Lonsdale Fire District was held on Tuesday July 26th, 2016, at the Lincoln Housing Authority Community Room, at 10 Franklin Street, Lincoln, RI. Wardens Babbitt, Booth Picozzi and Skenyon were present. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Warden Babbitt.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Warden Babbitt discussed recent correspondence, which included recent meetings with Chief Fisher and the Saylesville Fire Board, and meetings with Administrator Almond, over issues at the Lonsdale fire station, (such as the roof and generator).

Warden Babbitt presented the Treasurer's Report. The department's total balance is \$207,552.08 after bills are paid. Back in April, the Board received a letter from the IRS stating that Lonsdale owed money from missed Social Security payments. This issue was thought to be resolved and will need to be looked into further. The IRS states that the Board owes \$45, 310.18. The State Department of Revenue is also looking for missing quarterly reports from 2015, which the Board hopes to resolve with the upcoming audit. The Auditor General is looking for the Board to complete a form and letter to be submitted regarding the bid selection for the audit, and Warden Booth will complete it. Letters will also be sent out to the companies that were not selected for the audit. Warden Skenyon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. This was seconded by Picozzi. Motion passed 4-0.

There was no public comment.

Warden Babbitt presented the Fire Chief's Report. There were 51 calls in Lonsdale last month. Warden Booth made a motion to accept the Fire Chief's Report. Warden Picozzi seconded the motion. Warden Skenyon wanted to clarify with Chief Fisher of Saylesville how the department was handling the extra volume. Chief Fisher reported that it was important for the Board to discuss and accept the new contract with Saylesville in order for Saylesville to proceed as necessary. Motion then passed 4-0.

Warden Babbitt presented Old Business items. At this time, the legislation required for the district to dissolve their charter is set to be heard in January. This issue will remain under old Business, with nothing further to discuss until next year. The Wardens recently met to select a company for the audit and a company the Board believed to be called Shahady was selected. A letter to inform the Auditor General will be sent this week.

Warden Babbitt made a motion to move the Executive Session to the end of the meeting. Attorney Tim Cavazza will be working with the Board to discuss and settle any ongoing labor disputes or issues. Warden Skenyon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Under New Business, the Board will confirm with the District's charter if they have the authority to sell any equipment. There are multiple pieces that were purchased with grant money, so this will also have to be clarified. The new contract with Saylesville will increase to \$30,000 a month. The Board is exploring the possibility of paying \$15,000 from available funds and then \$15,000 in apparatus costs or credits, as the budget may not support the total cash amount. The three items of interest are the chief's car, Ranger, and engine. Chief Fisher asked if he could accrue credit towards the trucks, and then be able to use them from the Saylesville station.

The contract is to be extended for 2 years to reflect the possibility of the legislation not passing. Lonsdale will also pay their bill to Saylesville on the 28th of the month, as opposed to the original 15th of the month. After much discussion over the terms of the contract and who will take responsibility of the vehicles, Warden Babbitt made a motion to accept the contract between Lonsdale and Saylesville, contingent upon reviewing and agreeing to the physical document. Warden Booth amended the motion to allow Warden Babbitt sign the document, once written, reviewed and agreed upon. Warden Picozzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

After some discussion over the condition of the vehicles and possible value, it was decided that Saylesville would be responsible for getting the chief's car, engine and Ranger to the appropriate service locations. Warden Babbitt made a motion to send the chief's car, engine and Ranger to be serviced. This was seconded by Warden Booth. Motion passed 4-0.

Warden Booth discussed the benefits for both the taxpayers of Lonsdale and for Saylesville of having taxes collected in the Saylesville district. Warden Babbitt made a motion to move tax collection from Lonsdale to Saylesville, contingent on it being legal. Picozzi seconded this motion. Motion passed 4-0.

The tax collector is requesting adequate technology to perform his duties, (a computer, printer and fax). There was much discussion regarding the probable legal necessity to keep the districts' taxes separate, so a computer was agreed upon. The printer and fax would be shared at the Saylesville station, and the Board would split the costs of using the equipment, (ie. Paper, toner, etc). The Lonsdale board will also cover any other fees associated with tax collection, such as a company used by Saylesville to mail the taxes. Warden Skenyon made a motion to purchase a new computer for the tax collector. Motion seconded by Warden Picozzi. Motion passed 4-0.

Further discussion regarding the legality of Saylesville collecting Lonsdale taxes and any tax rate changes will be discussed at future meetings.

The handling of miscellaneous money **Tax** (ie. Smoke detector inspections), need a written policy. Chief Fisher and the Saylesville Board will meet to draft a policy, and Chief Fisher will try to have a draft to review for next month's meeting.

Warden Booth made a motion at 8:02 pm to end the meeting and begin the Executive Session. This was seconded by Warden Babbitt. Motion passed 3-0, as Warden Picozzi needed to excuse himself to leave early.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Driscoll, Clerk