

ASHAWAY FIRE DISTRICT

AUGUST 19, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Ashaway Fire District was called to order by Commission Chairperson, Kathy Schmidt, at 6:02 PM on Tuesday, August 19, 2014. The meeting was held at the Ashaway Fire Station.

Present: Commissioners Kathy Schmidt, John Donahue, Robert Greene, Clerk Linda Holman, Treasurer Joyce Smith and Tax Collector George Mayhew.

Reports

John Donahue made a motion seconded by Bob Greene to dispense with the reading of the clerk's, treasurer's and tax collector's reports. All in favor. Motion passed.

John Donahue made a motion seconded by Bob Greene to accept the draft minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting to be presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.

Bills

John Donahue made a motion seconded by Bob Greene to pay the

unpaid bills as of August 19, 2014 with the addition of \$975.00 for Vision Government Service. All in favor. Motion passed.

John Donahue made a motion seconded by Bob Greene to authorize the treasurer to pay the fire marshall bill of \$782.00. All in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business

None

New Business

Brian Steverman is not continuing with LOSAP. He did a great job.

John Donahue made a motion seconded by Bob Greene that Bob Greene take over LOSAP with the help of Brian Steverman and Rich Girton. A vote was taken. John couldn't vote because he benefits from the program, Kathy abstained so there wasn't a majority. Tabled until next month. Bob will check with the ethics committee or with Attorney Naccarato. Next month's vote will be the same because the new commissioner, Mike Williams, will also benefit from the plan.

LOSAP will go on next month's agenda.

John Donahue made a motion to have a special meeting for voters on

accepting BPF Reality into the Ashaway Fire District. There was no second to the motion.

Bob Greene made a motion that the application by Mr. Nicholas Griesto and BPF Reality, LLC/Bradford Printing & Finishing LLC to be accepted into the Ashaway Fire District. Motion seconded by Kathy Schmidt.

Kathy had investigated Mr. Griesto and his property formerly known as Bradford Dying Association. She read a letter with her findings (letter in file). Nicholas Griesto had been given the opportunity to attend the meeting.

In the past, he hasn't paid his taxes and is not in compliance with the laws. The property currently has coverage from the Dunn's Corner's Fire Department. There's a legal battle between the Department and Westerly Dispatch. As of now, they are to respond to calls for BPF.

Whether or not they are part of the Ashaway Fire District, Ashaway Fire will respond if called and will most likely be first on scene. The state could step in and say AFD has to take the property, but that's not likely since most of the property is in the town of Westerly.

Chief Sposato said that the commissioners could sit down with the attorney and dictate terms and write a contract. Could require taxes be paid up front, but by state law that's not an option. If taxes are not

paid, to try to uphold the contract could be astronomical. Do we need the headache?

John Donahue stated that since legally Dunn's Corner's has to respond, why not let it ride for now and see what he does with the business. Could get together with Attorney Naccarato in the next month or so to talk about the situation. Mr. Griesto can always apply again at a later date.

Kathy called for the vote. Kathy Schmidt, John Donahue and Robert Greene all opposed admitting BPF Reality into the Ashaway Fire District.

Kathy Schmidt had written a letter to Chief Sposato requesting information related to any agreements/contacts between Ashaway Volunteer Fire Association/Ashaway Fire District and Mr. Nicholas L. Griesto, Bradford Printing & finishing LLC, 460 Bradford Road, Bradford, RI.

There was a contract covering a short period of time for Ashaway Fire Association to provide fire protection to BPF. It is no longer in effect. There was a discussion as to whether Chief Sposato had the authority to enter into a contract without involving the Board of Fire Commissioners. Brian Steverman said that according to the charter, he did not.

Chief Sposato said the walk through at the mill was a meeting of the commissioners. There was disagreement on that point.

A deer ran into the side of the Chief's vehicle. He filed a claim and was told a police report was not required. He got an estimate from Westerly Auto Body and the adjuster will look at the vehicle tomorrow. Not sure that it's worth fixing. Will have to wait and see.

Chief's vehicle to go on next month's agenda.

Correspondence

None

Committee Reports

None

Public Comment

George Mayhew asked Kathy why she treated Joyce rudely. No answer given.

John Donahue made a motion seconded by Bob Greene to adjourn at 7:58 PM. All in favor. Motion passed.

Linda M. Holman

Clerk