

# **MISQUAMICUT FIRE DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF OFFICERS**

**November 8, 2014**

### **1. Call to Order**

**The Board of Officers Meeting of the Misquamicut Fire District was called to Order by Moderator Michelle Vacca at 9:30 a.m. on November 8, 2014.**

### **2. Roll Call**

**The following Officers were present: Moderator Michelle Vacca, Tax Collector Mary Delisio, Clerk Dianne Vumback, Treasurer William T. Sisco, Tax Assessor Leone D'Onofrio, Solicitor John P. Toscano, Jr., Fire Chief Shannon Earle and Members-at-Large Marilyn Bellesheim and Russell Ryan.**

### **3. Resident Comments/Officers' Responses**

**The Moderator begins the meeting by stating that it has been 2 years and 5 days since Super Storm Sandy and that the Board asked her to**

**be the Moderator. She thanked all for their commitment and support.**

**Doug Turnberg, 7 Joanth Terrace, Westerly, made comments on the access for fire members for private functions in the fire station building. The Moderator advised Mr. Turnberg that at the Officers' meeting held on September 17, 2014, the Board unanimously voted that the Fire House will no longer be available for personal use of any kind and nature.**

#### **4. Consent Calendar**

##### **Approval of Minutes**

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Ms. Bellesheim to accept the meeting minutes of September 17, 2014 and workshop minutes of October 15, 2014, and it was unanimously,**

**VOTED: To accept the meeting minutes of September 17, 2014 and Workshop minutes of October 15, 2014.**

##### **Appointment and Resignations**

**The Moderator appointed the three-member Finance Committee, with Walter Pawelkiewicz as Chairman, and two members, namely, Nancy Jones and Michelle Pinto. Leone D’Onofrio asked about the timeline.**

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. D’Onofrio and seconded by Mrs. Delisio that the Board provide the Finance Committee with a target date of March 31, 2015 for their submittal of the proposed 2015-2106 draft budget, and it was unanimously,**

**VOTED: To provide the Finance Committee with a target date of March 31, 2015 for their submittal of the proposed 2015-2106 draft budget**

**The Moderator appointed the Firefighter Incentive Committee with Marilyn Bellesheim as Chairwoman and Dennis Sharkey and Leone D’Onofrio, both of whom volunteered, as members. Chief Earle will have his input and Mrs. Bellesheim will find some taxpayers to also be members. The Moderator mentioned some complaints with this year’s incentive. This committee will be charged with revamping the incentive package. Moderator requests that by the end of March 2015, Mrs. Bellesheim shall present the Board with the committee’s incentive proposal.**

## **5. New Business**

### **(a) Discussion – Fire Apparatus**

**The Fire Chief stated that we need to focus on the Fire Department and providing adequate protections for the Misquamicut and Weekapaug Fire Districts. He believes we need to take some form of action as the cost of apparatus continues to increase. He states that he is referring to a truck, in particular Engine 202. Moderator suggested that the Chief to put together a fire truck committee that would include Fire Department members and taxpayers and make recommendations of what you are looking for to the Board so that the Board can bring the recommendations to the taxpayers at the Annual Meeting in June. Moderator Vacca suggested that the Chief advise her as to chair the committee and so that she can make an appointment.**

**Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of Weekapaug Fire District making a financial contribution toward the purchase of a truck. The Moderator indicated that she would prefer not to have joint ownership of the truck with the Weekapaug Fire District.**

**(b) Discussion – Quotes received for installation of new heating system at fire house, removal of old oil tank and pricing of fuel.**

**Moderator sent out requests for quotes and only two responded. One response was from A & B Oil, Inc. and the other was from Best Energy. Moderator Vacca recused herself from the discussion and the vote on this matter in that she is related to a**

**principal of the Best Energy company.**

**Solicitor Toscano indicated that he believes we should discuss and approve the removal of the old tank as there was only one bid. He advised the Board that he and Moderator Vacca met with the bidder and believed him to be a viable candidate.**

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Mrs. Delisio that the firm that gave us the \$3,000 quote for the removal of the underground oil tank should be awarded the job, it was unanimously**

**VOTED: That the firm that submitted the \$3,000 quote for the removal of the underground oil tank should be awarded the job.**

**Discussion ensued on the new energy efficient boiler. See attached quotes submitted. Leone D'Onofrio recommended that we do the specs to get consistency among the quotes.**

**Upon motion duly made by Mr. D'Onofrio and seconded by Mr. Ryan that we accept Best Energy's bid for the installation of two 330 gallon oil tanks for the total of \$2445.00 and accept them as our oil delivery carrier at the rate of 28 cents above rack price through June 30, 2017, and further, that we accept the boiler quote for the upgrade to a Buderus G215-4 Energy Star compliant boiler for a total price of \$7900.00, it was unanimously**

**VOTED: That we accept Best Energy's bid for the installation of two 330 gallon oil tanks for the total of \$2445.00 and accept them as our oil delivery carrier at the rate of 28 cents above rack price through June 30, 2017, and further, that we accept the boiler quote for the upgrade to a Buderus G215-4 Energy Star compliant boiler for a total price of \$7900.00.**

**Solicitor Toscano advised the Board that Best Energy needs to be contacted in writing that the Board voted to accept their quote, and that A & B Oil, Inc. needs to be contacted that the Board voted not to accept their quote, and further, that the Board voted to terminate automatic delivery by A & B Oil, Inc. Solicitor Toscano stated he will send letters to make the necessary notifications to both companies. Fire Chief Earle was instructed to make room for the necessary work to be performed at the Fire Station.**

## **6. Unfinished Business**

**(a) Discussion – Verification and confirmation of residency and voter registration of Fire Chief pursuant to Misquamicut Fire District Charter requirements.**

**Chief Earle indicated that he physically went to the Westerly Board of Canvassers on Friday morning, November 7, 2014 to ensure that he is properly registered to vote and that he reported that fact to the Moderator immediately.**

**The Moderator brought up the fact that there is a continuation of people in the District who have not been able to reach the Fire Chief. Chief Earle reported that he did 10 to 12 inspections yesterday and that nothing is pending. After last month, he has been able to catch up and has a set schedule so that when he is not in the district, the Deputy Chiefs are in charge.**

**The Moderator indicated that she received an email from Chief Earle on October 29, 2014, stating that he was on the Presidential detail in Providence when President Obama was in Providence. She stated that a call came in to the department at 2:08 a.m. and the call was not answered until 2:17 a.m. which was answered by Firefighter 218. The Moderator questioned the Fire Chief on these details. The Chief requested that the matter be tabled until he can investigate the matter.**

**The Moderator also learned that reports to central dispatch have not been done for five months. Clerk Vumback recommended that we do not wait until next month for the Chief to report to the Board on his investigation but rather that he email the findings of his investigation to the Moderator so that they will become part of our records.**

**Solicitor Toscano requested that the minutes reflect that at the last meeting the Fire Chief was here in Misquamicut at 5:00 o'clock at night and unfortunately this position requires him to be here on a 24/7**

**basis. The concern is that the Chief told the Board last month that after 5:00 p.m. he is in the district. Obviously it was at 2:08 a.m. when the call came in from Weekapaug and the Chief was not in the District. The Board of Officers feels that the District is not being protected.**

**Board members leaving the meeting: Russell Ryan left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. today and William Sisco left the meeting at 11:02 a.m. today.**

#### **(b) Discussion – National Grid Energy Survey**

**Chief Earle reported that as a result of a survey done at the station in May/June, he believes we could probably save money long term.**

**Discussion ensued and it was decided to table until next month until Fire Chief learns the survey findings from National Grid.**

### **7. Communications and Reports**

#### **(a) Report of Treasurer William T. Sisco**

**District is good shape, managing our money very well. Report filed.**

#### **(b) Report of Tax Collector Mary Z. Delisio**

**Taxpayer arrearages discussed. Report filed.**

**\$421,105 collected.**

**9 accounts that Solicitor Toscano sent letters to for being 2+ years late.**

**(c) Report of Moderator Michelle M. Vacca**

**1. Discussion – Volunteer Centennial Celebration Group**

**Discussion of the Centennial Celebration – something in May/June and end of the summer. \$15,000 allotment for this celebration. Moderator Vacca appointed Dianne Vumback in charge of the group. Volunteers to the group include Laurie Shuhi, Roseanne Sisco, Nancy Jones, Beth Lawrence, and Mary Delisio. Suggestions include fireworks, Smokey the Bear.**

**8. Agenda Referrals**

**The following items are referred to the next Board meeting under the agenda item of New Business:**

- (a) Approval of Minutes of the meeting held November 8, 2014.**
- (b) National Grid Energy Survey**
- (c) Electronic Gates for the Two Parking Lots**
- (d) Replacement of Memorial Bench at Lawton Avenue Beach**
- (e) Fire Chief's presence within the District**
- (f) Fire Chief's investigation of calls and time in which calls are answered**

**The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Officers of the Misquamicut Fire District will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**

## **9. Adjournment**

**There being no further business before the Board, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting is hereby adjourned.**

**ADJOURNED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dianne Vumback, Clerk**