

**MISQUAMICUT FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF OFFICERS**

February 28, 2015

1. Call to Order

The Board of Officers Meeting of the Misquamicut Fire District was called to Order by Moderator Michelle Vacca at 9:33 a.m. on February 28, 2015.

2. Roll Call

The following Officers were present: Moderator Michelle Vacca, Tax Collector Mary Delisio, Clerk Dianne Vumback, Tax Assessor Leone D’Onofrio, Fire Chief Todd Findeisen and Member-at-Large Marilyn Bellesheim. Solicitor John P. Toscano, Jr. was also present. Treasurer William T. Sisco and Member-at-Large Russell Ryan were absent.

3. Resident Comments/Officers’ Responses

None.

4. Consent Calendar

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Fire Chief Todd Findeisen and seconded by Mr. Leone D'Onofrio to accept the meeting minutes of January 10, 2015, and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To accept the meeting minutes of January 10, 2015

Appointment and Resignations

None.

5. New Business

(a) Discussion – Fire Apparatus

A discussion ensued over the equipment needs of the new fire apparatus. The district truck committee will convene at the end of March/beginning of April. The hope is that there will be a proposal summary – perhaps not a price – for the annual meeting for our tax payers. Additionally, Fire Chief Findeisen is in the process of looking at possible grants.

6. Unfinished Business

(a) Discussion – National Grid Energy Survey

Discussion ensued where Fire Chief Findeisen mentioned that National Grid will come in and retrofit all of the fire station house lighting – National Grid will pay 70% of the \$3,500 entire project (with MFD left to pay \$1,257.82 and National Grid will pay \$2,246). There are three options for payment: One lump sum; 12 months interest free; or 24 months interest free. Fire Chief Findeisen estimates that this is a \$300-\$400 savings per year.

Upon motion duly made by Fire Chief Findeisen and seconded by Mr. D’Onofrio for MFD to go into contract with National Grid to have them re-lamp and re-ballast all of the fire station house lighting, where they pay 70% of the \$3,504.41 cost, leaving MFD with a balance of \$1,257.82, which we will pay \$52.41/month for 24 months – added to our electric bill, and it was unanimously,

VOTED: To go into contract with National Grid to have them re-lamp and re-ballast all of the fire station house lighting, where they pay 70% of the \$3,504.41 cost, leaving MFD with a balance of \$1,257.82, which we will pay \$52.41/month for 24 months – added to our electric bill.

Upon motion duly made by Fire Chief Findeisen and seconded by Marilyn Bellesheim that the Moderator signs the contract with National Grid and RISE Engineering, and it was unanimously,

VOTED: The Moderator signs the contract with National Grid and RISE Engineering.

(b) Discussion – Electronic Gates for two parking lots

Mr. Leone D’Onofrio is in process of contacting fence companies – talked with Jeff Morrone from New England Security. This company stated it would take approximately 10/14 days for a quote. Mr. D’Onofrio is looking for minimum one more contractor to compare pricing. Jeff at NES does not believe we have to tar the driveway for this project – probably will need a trench. Once we are in possession of quotes, the Board will be able to determine if we need to go through the RFQ process. Once we get the price for one parking lot, we will see if there is a savings to do two parking lots.

(c) Discussion – Tractor status/sale

Mr. Leone D’Onofrio provided the board with preliminary information he collected on the tractor. He received pricing from three different companies, and the pricing is not very different. Equipment included Kubota L47401 HST Tractor – difference is \$697 from low to high quotes. All pricing was stated to be state minimum pricing. The difference in the companies would be the service since pricing is so

close. Chief financing through Kubota is 48 months, 0 down, 0% or 60 months, 0 down, .99%.

Additionally, quotes included were for a for John Deere 4044M Compact. This would cost an additional \$1,000-1,500 for this equipment. Companies contacted felt there is no major difference between the two tractors. There was a quote received for a backhoe and a discussion ensued over the need for a backhoe – all deciding we do not need one. Estimated cost for the monthly payment on the Kubota L47401 HST Tractor would be \$635.41. The district will go out to bid for the Kubota. We will meet at our next regularly board meeting and begin that meeting with opening of bids. We will advertise the request for bid and all bids must be received by the district no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 18, 2015.

Discussion ensued over the need for a taller garage door to house the new equipment. Carefree is coming down to give a quote, and Fire Chief Findeisen will get one to two more quotes to ensure proper/consistent pricing.

Two offers have been made on our Kubota tractor.

Upon motion duly made by Fire Chief Findeisen and seconded by Marilyn Bellesheim that the Moderator signs a bill of sale of the MFD Kubota L4310 HST to the highest price of the two bids received, and it was unanimously,

VOTED: The Moderator signs a bill of sale of the MFD Kubota L4310 HST to the highest price of the two bids received.

7. Communications and Reports

(a) Report of Solicitor John P. Toscano

1. Tax Sale Property

All taxpayers who were in consideration for tax sale have been brought up to date except for 92 Winnipaug Road, Unit 1, for \$1,040.64; 33-41 Winnipaug Road, \$685; 92 Winnipaug Road Unit 3 \$937.18; One Rabbit Run \$2,785.34.

After lengthy discussion and the attempts made by the Solicitor and Moderator to reach the taxpayer, and the subsequent failure of taxpayer to keep their promise to pay after outreach efforts, the board concluded that we should go to tax sale on the remaining four properties.

Upon motion duly made by Leone D'Onofrio and seconded by Dianne Vumback that the district precedes with tax sale on all delinquent tax properties up for consideration, and it was

VOTED: that the district proceeds with tax sale on all delinquent tax properties up for consideration.

(Ms. Marilyn Bellesheim –yes; Ms. Mary Delisio – yes; Mr. Leone D'Onofrio – yes; Moderator Michelle Vacca – yes; Ms. Dianne

Vumback – yes; Fire Chief Todd Findeisen – abstain).

2. Contract with Blackledge Final numbers

Discussion ensued over final numbers to Blackledge Construction. Treasurer requests we send a letter to Blackledge requesting money that he believes is due to the district. There is a discrepancy over what the Moderator and William Sisco, Treasurer believes Blackledge owes the district. Additionally, Blackledge believes he is due additional money from the district. The board feels we cannot make a decision on sending a letter to Blackledge without a discussion with our treasurer. We will add this to the agenda referral listing for next month.

(b) Report of Tax Collector Mary Z. Delisio

1. Status of Taxpayer arrearages

Arrears notices will go out by March 5, 2015. \$439, 794 collected to date. Uncollected balance is \$37,000 out of \$457,000 billed. We are roughly under \$6,000 from what we budgeted. \$37,000 is comprised of mostly the same late paying tax payers.

(c) Report of Fire Chief Todd Findeisen

Since last meeting – the department had 16 calls, mostly all minor in nature. 43 Crandall had a busted pipe and flooded whole house. The Captain and Lieutenant started firefighter 2 class, some members started NFPA fire safety class in Watch Hill. Station manned for 36

hours during the blizzard. All hydrants dug out by Wednesday after the blizzard. MFD Fire Chief , Westerly Fire Chief, Dunns Corner Fire Chief and Watch Hill Fire Chief are all in talks for a Westerly Joint Task Force. They plan on meeting once a month to consolidate efforts and training.

(d) Report of Moderator Michelle M. Vacca

Firefighter incentive – Ms. Marilyn Bellesheim and Mr. Leone D’Onofrio convened a meeting and suggests the district moves to a point system for incentive plan. Sheet attached – Fire Chief and Board of Engineers will define activities and make recommendations to the incentive committee on who is eligible for incentive plan.

The Moderator has submitted all paperwork to FEMA – she provided FEMA with a disc with all invoices.

A letter has been received by the district – and turned over to Solicitor Toscano – that MFD has been referred to the Attorney General office, for what she believes is meetings held by the Fire Department that were not properly posted to the Secretary of State website.

A discussion ensued regarding stain for the decks and T11. Estimate to stain, with Swedish wood oil, the balusters, walkways, decks and T11 both buildings is \$2,980.

(e) Report of the Centennial Group

Ms. Dianne Vumback has had a meeting with the Moderator to discuss her ideas and plan for the upcoming celebration. There will be a planning group get-together on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

(f) Report on new tractor prices

Reported under Section 6 – Unfinished Business, (b) Discussion – Tractor status/sale.

8. Agenda Referrals

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

Review of the bid pricing and selection of bid winner for tractor

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held February 28, 2015

Contract with Blackledge Final numbers

Pricing of Electronic Gates for two parking lots

Report of Centennial Group

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Officers of the Misquamicut Fire District will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Vumback, Clerk