



WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
1110 Victory Highway
Greene, Rhode Island 02827
Phone (401) 397-7520
Fax (401) 397-1084
www.wcfid.net
Board of Directors Meeting
March 28, 2013
Minutes

Members Present

Chairman John Humble
Richard Holt
Robert Hevey
Jonathan Farnum
Robert Guastini

Moderator WCS Mays, III
Treasurer Glenn Underwood
Tax Collector Joan Smith
Clerk Cheryl Wilcox
Chief Steven Quattrini

Chuck Smith
Captain Mann
Richard Land, Special Master CCFD
Attorney Harsch

- 1. *Call to Order and Attendance*** – The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
- 2. *Confirmation of required meeting posting and quorum*** – The Chairman confirmed that there is a quorum present and the meeting was posted in all required locations.
- 3. *Acceptance of BOD meeting minutes of 14 March, 2013 and 21 March, 2013*** – A motion is made and seconded to accept the minutes, as amended, of the March 14 and March 21, 2013 meetings. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- 4. *CCFD status and any possible WCFD response/action items***
All Members of the Board were disappointed that the vote did not turn out differently with CCFD. We do rely on the surrounding communities and districts for mutual aid and were hoping for another result.

Attorney Harsch believes, because of our Charter, that the General Assembly cannot force a town-wide district on us. There is potential for the District to take over additional territory. There is discussion of timeframe of courts and Special Masters decisions. A map is distributed of potential splitting of the town between three remaining fire districts. Cost, revenue, and ability to

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provide the service should be well thought-out when considering if we want to take over additional area.

Special Master Richard Land states that legislation proposed would divide CCFD between three other districts and protect those districts from being subject to liabilities. The intention is to move on parallel paths to get approval of various districts. He suspects that there are other ideas out there. He says he has about a week's worth of cash to work with. He is concerned that the firemen won't be staying for very long. He is not sure that the Judge will impose the taxpayers to pay their taxes. In answer to Mr. Humble's question, Mr. Land has not received participation from other fire district board of directors. He does believe that Chief Brown and Labbadia have kept their board and counsel aware of the situation. The boundaries of each district charter must be changed in order to collect taxes. He states that the liability extends further than \$2.8 million. Claims have been submitted to the insurance company, but Mr. Land doesn't expect to get near what was requested. Mr. Land will explain in Court what happened and present options (Impose the levy, impose some lesser levy, liquidation). He says what makes the most sense is to divide the Town into two districts, which are Western and eastern because we are a rural district in a town that's not rural any longer. Our District will attempt to get run numbers for the area proposed to be extended. Also, the Tax Collector will find tax numbers for the same area. There is discussion of taking a larger area since hydrants start near Town Hall. The question of getting money from CCFD to offset short term costs is made. Mr. Land states that there is no money for that. The Members thank Mr. Land for attending the meeting.

A motion is made by Mr. Farnum to support evaluating the proposal of extending the District. Motion is seconded by Mr. Guastini. Discussion: The Tax Collector will get a value of the property that is proposed that we will be taking over. All voted aye. Motion carried.

5. ***2013-2014 budget preparation and 2013 Annual Meeting preparation continuation*** – if paper ballots are requested, plain paper can be used. Ballots will not be prepared ahead of time. Station members will be at the exits so that taxpayers will be required to leave at the Tax Collectors table.

Mr. Harsch will discuss legal highpoints over the past year such as Charter and Bylaws amendments. We spent a lot of time during the prior year dealing with the Attorney General's office and found we did nothing wrong. Because of the complaints we have been getting Attorney Harsch feels that our need for legal advice will be very limited.

There is discussion of the Judge's ability and the power of the District Charter. Attorney Harsch says that this District cannot be forced into a town-wide district.

6. ***Provisions relating to and acquisition of a used command vehicle*** - Mr. Mays states that it should not be necessary to ask taxpayer approval for the swap of the vehicle for hose from Anthony Fire District because no money will be changing hands. Mr. Holt states that there is an SAP that gives the right to dispose of unneeded equipment. A letter will be sent to Chief Labbadia after the motion. Mr. Hevey noted that the swap will be a deviation from the SAP.

A motion is made by Mr. Guastini and seconded by Mr. Farnum to trade, under the conditions of a letter dated March 28, 2013 from Chief Labbadia a command vehicle for sections of 800 feet of

four inch hose. Discussion: Mr. Hevey reads disposal procedure. Attorney Harsch states that this is not disposal, it's a trade. The hose was at no cost to the Department. Mr. Holt states that the cost is less than \$100 and did not cost the District. All voted aye. Motion carried. Mr. Humble will write a response.

7. *New Business* – n/a

8. *Open Forum* – n/a

9. *Schedule next meeting* – the next meeting will be held on April 3rd.

10. *Adjournment* – a motion is made by Mr. Guastini and seconded by Mr. Farnum to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. All voted aye. Motion carried.

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