



WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
1110 Victory Highway, Greene, Rhode Island 02827
Phone (401) 397-7520, Fax (401) 397-1084, www.wcfd.net
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, 20 February, 2014, 7:00 P.M.
meeting to take place at the above address
MINUTES
(Posted 15 February, 2014)

Members Present

Chairman John Humble
Richard Holt
Robert Hevey
Robert Guastini
Johnathan Farnum

Glenn Underwood, Treasurer
Joan Smith, Tax Collector
WCS Mays III, Moderator
Cheryl Wilcox, Clerk
Kendra Miller
Sean French
Paul Alexander
Nick Northcut
Robert Oz
Deputy Chief Guastini

1. **Call to Order and Attendance-** the Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Confirmation of required meeting posting and quorum-** The Chairman confirmed that there was a quorum present and the meeting was posted in all required locations.
3. **Acceptance of BOD meeting minutes of 9 and 16 January and 6 February, 2014-** A motion is made by Mr. Farnum and seconded by Mr. Guastini to accept the minutes of January 9 and 16 and February 6, 2014. Mr. Hevey asked that the minutes be tabled because of the lateness that they were sent and he didn't have time to read them. Minutes tabled.
4. **Chief's Report to include:** Mr. Hevey asked that the Chief's report be tabled because of the lateness that it was sent out and he didn't have time to read it. The Chairman will allow the Deputy to present the Chiefs report.
 - a. **Department's operational activity and management for the month of January, 2014-** 12 fires, 23 rescues, 4 trainings, 4 mutual aid calls out to CCFD and 7 in during the month of February. A motion is made by Mr. Guastini and seconded by Mr. Hevey to accept the Chiefs report.

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Discussion: Mr. Humble asks about a 13 minute response call. The long calls were before 8:00 a.m. when no one is on duty.

- b. Apparatus usage report-* The Chairman asks to receive this report monthly.
 - c. ISO rating improvement effort status* – there is a meeting on February 25th.
 - d. Wind turbine emergency response preparedness plan* – DC Guastini doesn't think we know enough about them or how to treat anything that may go wrong. She has contacted the contractor but has not heard back from them. Joan says that the Town Tax Assessor thinks that wind turbines will be tax exempt. Mr. Humble wants to know what the expectation of the fire department will be. Will a specialized team be called in during an emergency? A department member who has built turbines says that there is not fire suppression built in. There is emergency shutdown in the building, in the tower, and on top. Mr. Mays believes that these turbines will cost the department money and the developer should be mandated to fund training. Mr. Underwood agrees if the turbines will not create tax revenue. The Chief has been asked to attend the Zoning Board meeting. Mr. Guastini suggests Attorney Harsch also attend. Mr. Humble suggests member send issues or concerns for the Zoning Board meeting.
5. *Treasurer's Report to include the District's financial accounting activity for the month of January, 2014-* with 11 months into the fiscal year, Mr. Underwood feels the budget will come in on target. There has been \$6,500 budgeted for rescue supplies and only \$1,800 has been spent. DC Guastini will replenish supplies at the end of the budget year.

A motion is made by Mr. Guastini and seconded by Mr. Farnum to accept the Treasurers report.

6. *Tax Collector's Report to include:**
- a. The District's tax collection activity for the month of January, 2014-* opening balance, \$334,577.92; payments, \$74,154.18; interest 489.91; unpaid balance, \$260,498.68.
 - b. Review of budgeted interest on delinquent taxes-* the Tax Collector doesn't anticipate the amount being as high next year because there won't be a tax sale.
 - c. Scope of the Coventry town taxing authority as it pertains to commercial businesses and private property* – campers are taxed as tangible and are hard to collect. They also are not worth a lot of money. Cell towers are taxed but have a very low value. The one at the campground is valued at \$29,800. She reminds the BOD that they can go up 50% to have a higher commercial tax rate.

A motion is made by Mr. Guastini and seconded by Mr. Farnum to accept the Tax Collectors report. All voted aye. Motion carried.

7. *Clerk's Report to include the District Clerk's activity for the month of January, 2014-* N/A
8. *SAP Committee Report-* N/A
- a. Update of work in progress.*

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b. Announce schedule of next SAP Committee meeting.

9. Charter/By-Laws Committee Report

a. Proposed revisions to the By-Laws – Mr. Hevey says that there will not be changes proposed to the voters at the annual meeting. The changes suggested at the last meeting weren't enough to be done now.

10. CCFD receivership/liquidation status and any possible WCFD response/action items – there was an informal meeting called by the Town Manager. After the next CCFD BOD meeting, another meeting will be held with the Town Manager and representatives of the four fire districts. Kendra Miller met with Gorham of CCFD who said that on May 16th at 11:59 p.m. the doors of CCFD will be locked and the locks changed. A limited staff will be kept on to wrap things up. The Tax Collector will remain. Assets will be liquidated. The Station Street station and the Hill Farm Station cannot be liquidated. The Chairman suggests that this BOD be ready to express what our district would want if CCFD does not survive. They reiterate that the best case would be that CCFD remains operational.

11. Continuation of 2014-2015 budget and annual meeting packet preparation – In his report, the Chief asks that 5 sets of turnout gear purchased through rescue recovery and 1 set be added to Gear & Equipment in the budget. Mr. Holt would like to see that they all be either in the budget or all in rescue recovery. Mr. Underwood would like to see them in the budget. He says if they come out of the budget, then they won't be replenished as they should be every 5 years. He also says that it had been agreed to use rescue recovery to purchase support vehicles. The budget should support basic gear and equipment. Mr. Hevey suggests that there may be discounted items through CCFD's liquidation that we could purchase. There is a suggestion that one set of turnout gear get purchased during the current budget. That would leave only five needed.

There is an EMA meeting on Monday. The Deputy will ask Chief Volpe what we should budget for the Fire Alarm fee.

Members are asked to suggest points that they would like to see in the message to voters. Reports are due in two weeks.

12. New Business – N/A

13. Open Forum- N/A

14. Schedule next BOD meeting- the next meeting will be held on February 27, 2014.

15. Adjournment- a motion is made by Mr. Hevey and seconded by Mr. Farnum to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. All voted aye. Motion carried.

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