

**UNION FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WARDENS  
MEETING MINUTES  
131 ASA POND ROAD, WAKEFIELD, R.I.  
JULY 15, 2013  
7:00 PM**

Wardens: Present: Mr. Steere, Mr. Ciccone, Mr. Boisvert, Mr. McClarnon and Mr. Sloan

Chiefs: Deputy Chiefs Carney, Quinn and Pinch

Others: District Clerk, Ms. Hogan and Mr. DeSista

Mr. Steere called the meeting to order at approximately 7:08 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**Motion 13-7-1:** Mr. McClarnon moves to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2013. Mr. Ciccone seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

**COMMITTEES & REPORTS:**

**BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Deputy Chief Pinch reported that the Building Committee met tonight and that the Tuckertown Fire Station is about 95% complete with four items left to be finished and which include gutter work, signage, locks on the doors and exterior painting.

**TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Deputy Chief Quinn for the Training Committee and advised that the committee is working on a recruitment campaign and that there is a media day scheduled for September 8, 2013 and recruitment day scheduled for October 5, 2013 at the Training Facility. Deputy Chief Quinn further advised that currently registration is ongoing for (NFPA) 1001 training and which classes will begin on September 24, 2013. Deputy Quinn then advised that the live burn training schedule for the upcoming fall is in development at the present time and will be completed in the coming weeks. Discussion ensued regarding the media day event.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Motion 13-7-2:** Mr. McClarnon moves to postpone the discussion of the old business agenda items until the arrival of Assistant Fire Marshal Hiener. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boisvert. All in favor; motion carries.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSS SK HOUSING CAMERA INSTALLATION:** Ms. Patricia Breslin, Chairperson for the South Kingstown Housing Authority (SKHA) Board of Commissioners, then spoke and advised that she along with the entire Board of Commissioners and all were

present tonight and who included Vice Chair Kenneth Bowman, Mr. Robert Schofield, Ms. Maureen Egan, Mr. Robert Schofield and Ms. Leslie Chouinard as well as Captain Joel Ewing Chow of the South Kingstown Police Department. Ms. Breslin then advised that the SKHA is trying to make it safer for the tenants, neighbors and businesses in the area of the High Street property (Fournier Estates). Ms. Breslin later discussed clearing brush along the fence line and roadway entrance way to improve visibility of persons hanging around the entrance and many of whom are not tenants of the SKHA. Ms. Breslin further requested permission to thin out brush that is on the UFD property as well and advised that the SKHA would pay for the brush removal. Discussion continued regarding improving visibility of the main roadway and entrance to Fournier estates to eventually include additional lighting and cameras. Captain Joel Ewing-Chow of the South Kingstown Police then spoke in favor of the initiative SKHA to improve visibility of the main entrance and roadway at the Fournier estates property. Discussion continued regarding what brush would be removed to include trash. Mr. Boisvert then advised that he had no objection regarding thinning the brush but did not want to have the arborvitaes taken out. Discussion continued regarding the potential future locations of the cameras and lighting. Mr. Bowman then advised that once the area is cleared then the SKHA will have the camera company respond and advise where the best placements for the cameras would be. Discussion continued regarding having a member of the SKHA, Peacedale Fire Station and Union Fire District meet in the future to determine what brush should be cleared and or thinned out. **Motion 13-7-3:** Mr. McClarnon moves to honor the request of the SKHA and SKPD and have a member of the District (Dan Nolan) and a member of the Peacedale Fire Station coordinate with both the SKHA and SKPD regarding the issue and take prompt and appropriate action. Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. Discussion continued and Ms. Hogan, legal counsel, then added that any contractor that comes onto the property needs to properly insured and has to be willing to execute a waiver of liability in favor of the District. No further discussion. All in favor; motion carries.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

AWARD PURCHASE OF LICENSES FOR PUBLIC EYE MOBILE APP: Assistant Fire Marshal Hiener then discussed the Public Eye Mobile software and which will access the IMC software better in the field than the present laptops. Discussion ensued regarding the Public Eye Mobile software, related costs and budget. **Motion 13-7-4:** Mr. Ciccone moved to deny the purchase. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sloan. All in favor; motion carries.

AWARD PURCHASE OF NFPA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK MATERIALS: **Motion 13-7-5:** Mr. Ciccone moves to award purchase of NFPA Fire Prevention Week materials for the sum of \$625.53. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boisvert. All in favor; motion carries.

AWARD PURCHASE OF PROJECTOR FOR FIRE PREVENTION: **Motion 13-7-6:** Mr. Boisvert moves to award purchase of the projector for Fire Prevention to Dell for the sum of \$549.07. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ciccone. All in favor; motion carries.

AWARD PURCHASE OF iPad: Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of an iPad and which will be used Assistant Fire Marshal Hiener and the old iPad will be utilized by Fire Marshal Emmott. **Motion 13-7-7:** Mr. McClarnon moves to approve purchase of

iPAD from Verizon for the sum of \$759.99. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sloan. All in favor; motion carries.

**DIVE TEAM EQUIPMENT:** Lieutenant Lance Whaley then discussed conducting an inventory of older dive equipment that was not being used and visiting Andersons Dive Shop to seek a trade in for newer equipment and obtained a sole source price quote for assorted dive gear equipment. **Motion 13-7-8:** Mr. Boisvert moves to approve purchase of dive team equipment for the sum of \$5,400.00. Mr. Ciccone seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carries.

**GENERATORS:** Mr. Nolan then discussed going out to bid for generators for the Administration Building and Tuckertown Fire Station. Mr. Nolan then advised that he has researched the matter and is looking to go out to bid in the near future. **Motion 13-7-9:** Mr. McClarnon makes motion to go out to bid on the generators. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sloan. All in favor; motion carries.

**AWARD PURCHASE OF SCOTTS AV2000 MASKS:** Deputy Chief Pinch then discussed the need to order additional Scotts masks due to many masks being condemned and placed out of service. Discussion continued regarding budget issues for the equipment and which SCBA budget will be overextended and funds to be used from other available accounts. **Motion 13-7-10:** Mr. Boisvert moves to approve purchase of forty (40) Scott's masks from Shipman's for the sum of \$7,598. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ciccone. All in favor; motion carries.

**AWARD PURCHASE OF DELINEATOR POSTS:** Discussion ensued regarding delineator posts and which will be used for driver training. **Motion 13-7-11:** Mr. Boisvert moves to approve purchase of delineator posts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sloan. All in favor; motion carries.

**AWARD PURCHASE OF HELMET SHIELDS:** **Motion 13-7-12:** Mr. Boisvert moves to approve purchase of twenty four probationary helmet shields from C&S Specialty for the sum of \$902.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sloan. All in favor; motion carries.

**DISCUSS LETTER REGARDING STATION 2 VACANT LOT:** Discussion ensued regarding a resident letter regarding the vacant lot utilized by Station 2 members. Mr. Nolan then advised that the trailer had been removed from the lot and he planned on having a landscaper chip the fallen branches in the lot as well.

**STATION 2 APPARATUS DOOR REPAIR:** Mr. Nolan then discussed the need to replace two (2) panels for one of the apparatus bay doors at Station 2. **Motion 13-7-13:** Mr. Ciccone moves to approve apparatus door repair out of the repairs all stations budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sloan. All in favor; motion carries.

**2013 FIRE CHIEFS OF THE YEAR:** Discussion ensued regarding Chief Perry attending the 2013 Fire Chiefs of the Year meeting in Chicago, IL. **Motion 13-7-14:** Mr. Ciccone moves to approve the Chief's attendance at the Chiefs of the Year meeting in Chicago. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sloan. All in favor; motion carries.

**DISPATCH:** Discussion ensued regarding continued dispatch related issues.

DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL TRAINING: Deputy Chief Quinn then discussed two letters forwarded to the Board of Wardens from the Union Hellenic Fire Service Volunteers and the Order of AHEPA regarding the possibility of a delegation of Greek firefighters training at the Union Fire District facilities during the month of October 2013. Deputy Chief Quinn advised that the Order of AHEPA will be funding the trip. Discussion continued regarding the training and related costs. Deputy Chief Quinn advised that this training will result in no cost for the District. **Motion: 12-7-15:** Mr. McClarnon makes motion to support the international training and that there will be no costs for the Union Fire District and taxpayers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sloan. Mr. Ciccone then advised that he wanted to be clear that there will be absolutely no costs for the taxpayers to include rehab refreshments, fruit and such. Deputy Chief Quinn advised that there will not be (costs for taxpayers). All in favor; motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS: **Motion 12-7-16:** Mr. Ciccone then moves to appoint Chief Robert Perry, Deputy Chief Jack Carney, Deputy Chief Pinch, Deputy Chief Collinson, Deputy Chief Kevin Quinn, Legal Counsel Margaret Hogan, Treasurer Richard DeSista and Clerk John Blessing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boisvert. All in favor; motion carries.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. DeSista provided copies of the treasurer's report for the Wardens.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT/ABATEMENTS: **Motion 13-7-17:** Mr. Ciccone moves to accept the Tax Collector's report as presented and which was seconded by Mr. Sloan. All in favor; motion carries.

#### COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS/FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. Dave Johnson of 131 Brown Bear Road and advised that he was representing Tuckertown Springs Homeowners Association, which had been established for approximately seven to eight years, and included eight property owners for the private Brown Bear road. Mr. Johnson then advised that the association has to pay rental fees to United Water for two hydrants on the private road. Mr. Johnson advised that his association has issues regarding these rental fees and has met with the Town of South Kingstown Public Works, United Water and Chief Perry regarding why the association has to pay these rental fees when they also pay fire taxes. Mr. Johnson further mentioned that the locations of the two hydrants serve the public as well as the private. Mr. Johnson then introduced Mr. Jack Champney to discuss historical points and then will turn it over to Mr. Kirk Benson who drafted a letter that they would like to present at the meeting. Mr. Champney then advised that he purchased his property in 2004 and which was prior to the installation of public water lines and the two fire hydrants. Mr. Champney then mentioned a proposal in 2005 and which was about the same time that Tuckertown Road was being repaved and further mentioned an invoice from Ryder Excavation for the purchase and installation of two hydrants on Brown Bear Road. Mr. Benson then advised that he was asked to write the letter (regarding the hydrant fees) and that the association has met with Public Works Department and Chief Perry in the past. Mr. Benson then discussed that the Union Fire District covers the rental fees to United Water for hydrants on public roads and that for the areas serviced by water from the Town of South Kingstown there are no rental (hydrant) fees for either public or

private roads. Mr. Benson then advised that the people who are serviced by United Water on private roads are the only people in the Town who have to pay these rental fees and that this is unfair situation and may be illegal. Mr. Benson further advised that when the hydrants were placed on the road (Brown Bear) they were placed to satisfy the Union Fire District and United Water and who were the ones who selected the hydrant locations. Mr. Benson then discussed that one of the hydrants on Brown Bear are closer to houses on Tuckertown than houses on Brown Bear road and the other hydrant is located to service a road behind their property and that both hydrants are servicing other people. Legal Counsel Ms. Hogan then discussed that this section of the meeting was for comments from citizens and firefighters only and that the Board could engage not engage in a back and forth discussion or make any decisions. Discussion continued as to how to place a matter on the agenda in the future. Discussion continued from Tuckertown Springs Association members regarding questions as to why they had to purchase hydrants to be installed, pay annual hydrant fees and that other people in the town that are similarly situated with hydrants on their private roads are not paying hydrant fees and which is inconsistent. Mr. Ernie George then advised that he is a member of the homeowners association and then stated that the association is feeling like they are running in circles trying to get answers. Mr. George then advised that some of the questions from the Association are: what is this rental fees all about, when did it start and why does it keep increasing? Mr. George then advised when he put the water line in and there was mention of the rental fee and did not get answers to the questions even back then and are looking for help with the next step. Ms. Hogan advised that her recommendation to the Board based upon the comments from the citizens is that this is an item that should be taken under advisement, which the District needs to have the opportunity to read the correspondence, and put on future agenda and be discussed publicly. Ms. Hogan further advised that there has been some history with this issue that she was involved with and have shared by e-mail just this afternoon. Ms. Hogan further discussed that the District has just received the Association's official letter so we can take that correspondence for future agenda and that September would be the earliest that the Board could place the matter on the agenda.

Deputy Chief Collinson then advised that the District is moving forward with plans for the 2013 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Deputy Chief Carney advised that he was speaking with Acting Chief Dave Arnold of Narragansett Fire Department and who advised that the Narragansett Fire Department uses the 400 frequency and he would like to check into pursuing their frequency and which is rated for a base station and which the District does not have at the present time. Discussion continued regarding the looking into obtaining the frequency in the future as an administrative matter.

Chairman Steere then advised that he would like to have a moment of silence for the nineteen firefighters that perished in Arizona.

ADJOURNMENT:

**Motion 13-7-18:** Mr. McClarnon moves to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:42 PM and which was seconded by Mr. Ciccone. All in favor; motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Blessing  
District Clerk

Date Amended \_\_\_\_\_

Date Accepted \_\_\_\_\_

I, John P. Blessing, District Clerk, do certify that the attached minutes are a true and accurate copy of the July 15, 2013 Meeting of the Board of Wardens of the Union Fire District of South Kingstown and that they have not been amended except as cited above.

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John P. Blessing  
District Clerk