

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CUMBERLAND FIRE DISTRICT

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL, 45 BROAD STREET, CUMBERLAND, RI

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lemois, Commissioners Koutsogiane, Matta, Parent, Ouellette, Champagne, Scullin and Solicitor Kelley Morris

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The scheduling of meetings for the next 8 weeks was distributed. Chairman Lemois noted that these could change depending on outside influences. There are advertisements that need to go into newspaper.

CONSENT AGENDA

COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 3/24/15. SECONDED BY OUELLETTE.

At this point it was noted that Commissioner Koutsogiane did not have the meeting package. It was agreed to put the minute review off until the 04/28/2015 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Support of passage of Senate Bill S-0177

COMMISSIONER OUELLETTE MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL S-0177. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE.

Commissioner Scullin objected to this bill. He does not know why we are spending so much time on a bill that he feels is going to die. Chairman Lemois explained that the District is a public body and that this bill would just clarify that. Commissioner Koutsogiane's opinion is that this is a political bill and will not have his support.

AFTER A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION PASSED 5-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS KOUTSOIGANE AND SCULLIN VOTING NAY. **NOTED ACTUAL VOTE WAS 5-2, AS WOULD BE INDICATED WITH TWO COMMISSIONERS REGISTERED AS VOTING NO.**

Meeting Minutes of the Cumberland Fire District for 04/14/2015

NEW BUSINESS

A. R-2015-20 Repairs to Station #5.

The North Cumberland Fire District had met and approved said work to be completed at Station #5. The Treasurer of the North Cumberland Fire District has produced document for funding of said work. The Chief summarized that work that needed to be completed and also handed out estimates and proposals of the same. He also stated that \$6,000 for an insurance claim regarding the roof would be applied to the costs.

Chairman Lemois stated that this work should be completed by 6/30/15, prior to the North Cumberland Fire District closing their books.

COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE MOVED TO AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN LEMOIS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR THE REPAIR WORK ON STATION #5. COMMISSIONER PARENT SECONDED AND PASSED WITH A 7-0 VOTE.

B. Finance Department Merger Update.

Mr. Bruce handed out the March 31st Cash and Tax Collection reports. He stated that for each of the four districts, these reports are supported through the attached computer collection and receivable reports. The cash and collection reports will be provided at your first regular monthly meetings.

The consolidated budget to actual report will be provided at each of the second regular meetings of the month. In July, the process will become more centralized and Finance will make every effort to provide this report for the 1st meeting of the month.

Mr. Bruce further stated that North Cumberland and Valley Falls had a significant impact on tax collections which resulted from the hard work of Diane and Jean.

All bank reconciliations are up to date as of 3/31/15. Tax revenue on pages 5 through 8 is accurate. Tax collections went up 6 percentage points in two weeks due to efforts of collecting delinquencies. He stated that the deadline to send audit to the State is Thursday. The District has a 94-95% tax collection rate. This is not a total basis for next year's projection, but part of it.

Mr. Bruce's concern for the outcome of the current year is use of surplus used for funding of the budget. He and the Chief will be meeting on Thursday regarding the budget and will plan accordingly.

Commissioner Koutsogiane questioned if the Board could possibly get these reports prior to the meetings. Mr. Bruce explained that the due date for submission is on Friday and that the Finance Report would be in packet. Mr. Bruce said it would be similar to tonight.

Commissioner Koutsogiane raised the issue again on page 2, cash-out operating expense. He would like to see itemized line items and asked if this was doable.

Mr. Bruce answered that we could do this starting 7/1/15 once the District has a centralized accounting system. He explained that it would be a manual task of all 4 districts with no automation. Chairman Lemois also explained that each district has a different chart of accounts. It would be too much work and time and that our focus needs to be on the merger and that he has complete faith in Mr. Bruce's work and general reporting being given and placed on the record.

Mr. Bruce took template from the North Cumberland District as he was impressed with it.

Commissioner Koutsogiane questioned the vendor accounts, listing of reserves with each account. Chairman Lemois again stated that this would take too much time to complete for each meeting.

Commissioner Scullin asked for an update on the North Cumberland and Valley Falls tax collector. Chairman Lemois stated that it was a personnel issue and cannot speak without it being on the agenda. Solicitor Morris concurred that the topic was too far off the agenda.

C. Review of the Planning Session Goals.

This report is based on net tax levy amounts as recorded in the Vision Tax Administration System of each district. Calculations relate to only current 2014-1015 fiscal year taxes. Prior year tax collections are not reflected. Collection amounts represent real estate and tangible taxes. This data reflects different bill due date as noted which affects rate performance. The collection rate applied in the adopted District annual revenue budget should be based primarily on historical experience which, to a limited extent, is reflected by this short period (nine months) report.

D. Chief's report on Buildings and Apparatus

The Chief summarized all of the repairs that need to be at all of the Stations. Details can be found in his report listed on www.cumberlandfire.org under meeting packets. He stated that they could be ahead in some areas, while they are way ahead in other areas. The easiest of the issues have been implemented and is working to make it more equitable between all divisions.

E. Chief's Goals

The Chief is looking into new software that is more user friendly and more accurate for reporting calls. He feels we could report better with a true representation of the calls.

A bigger issue is repairs to Engine #5. Engine #5 had a breakdown today and was repaired at a cost of \$3,087.22.

Chairman Lemois asked if there were any public input prior to going into Executive Session and there was none.

COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:52 P.M.
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OUELLETTE. PASSED WITH A 7-0 VOTE.

COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE MOVED TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION. SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER MATTA. PASSED WITH A 7-0 VOTE.

COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE MOVED TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OUELLETTE. PASSED WITH A 7-0 VOTE.

COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE MOVED TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AT 8:18 P.M.
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OUELLETTE. PASSED WITH A 7-0 VOTE.

Submitted by
Debra Auclair
Committee Clerk

NOTE: All reports covered or mentioned at this meeting are available to view on the CFD web site: www.cumberlandfire.org.