

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CUMBERLAND FIRE DISTRICT

JUNE 2, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

CUMBERLAND LIBRARY MEETING ROOM 2

1465 DIAMOND HILL ROAD, CUMBERLAND, RI 02864

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **FC-R-2015-32 Tax Rules Documentation.** The Cumberland Fire Districts has certain rules in formulation of the tax bills. There will be a minimum of \$25.00 for a tax bill and all bills would be due within 30 days with a 15 day grace period before the addition of the 16% penalty is added.

COMMISSIONER CHAMPANGE MOVED TO PASS THE TAX RULES DOCUMENTATION,
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OUELLETTE
PASSED 7-0 WITHOUT DISCUSSION

- B. **FC-R-2015-33 Moving of funds from CJFD to VFFD.** Would like to authorize a transfer of \$155,000 to the Valley Falls Operating Account from the Cumberland Hill Health Fund account. This transfer would allow Valley Falls to adequately fund payroll and other required disbursements until the June 30th fiscal year end.

Commissioner Champagne asked for an explanation for this need. The Chairman explained that in reaching it was noticed that at the last board meeting prior to the VF annual meeting it was discussed that they needed a tax rate of \$2.54 to fund the budget. A recommendation was made to use \$2.45 and use \$50,000 out of surplus.

A week later, with no minutes of any meetings in between, the VF Treasurer moved the tax rate for approval at \$2.34. There wasn't any explanation for the change nor funds secured to balance the budget. In effect VF pasted an unbalanced budget.

COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE MOVED TO MODIFY THE RESOLUTION TO REEEEEAD
THAT AS SOON AS IT IS PRACTICAL, THE HEALTHCARE FUND WILL BE FULLY RESTORED.
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OUELLETTE.

PASSED 7-0

COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE MOVED TO PASS THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED TO TRANSFER \$155,000 TO VALLEY FALLS FIRE DISTRICT. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OUELLETTE. PASSED 7-0.

C. Request to adjourn into Executive Session (Rm 4) pertaining to Collective Bargaining Agreement.

COMMISSIONER OUELLETTE MOVED TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:09 P.M. SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHAMPANGE. PASSED 7-0.

BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION AT 7:31 P.M.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN IN REGARDS TO THE CONTRACT AND WAS PASSED WITH A 5-2 VOTE. COMMISSIONERS SCULLIN AND KOUTSIAGNE VOTED NAY.

Chairman Lemois moved Public Input up on the Agenda. There was no public input at this time.

Chief's Communications

The Chief communicated that with the vacancy in the ranks of fire fighters since the retirement of a member in January, that he recommends Stephen Instasi III of 72 Alaska Drive, Cumberland be appointed as a probationary fire fighter to the Cumberland Fire Department with a start date agreeable to both parties. Mr. Instasi will start in two weeks.

38 applicants out of 40 showed up and there were 16 that passed the oral exam. It was discussed that we hold list of candidates for one year and then renew as there were many good candidates.

Commissioner Ouellette questioned if candidates could be used as on call or volunteer. The Chief thought it would be possible but the only problem would be commitment and we are limited with what we have budgeted.

It was also noted that there were no women or minorities that applied.

Chairman Lemois asked the Chief for a list of how the position was advertised.

Commissioner Koutsogiane questioned who was on the Board for the interview process. Commissioner Matta, Deputy Anderson, Captain Emerson, Lt. O'Neil, Commissioner

Parent and Firefighter Babikian were on that Board. The Chief has all information available for anyone to see.

(Commissioner Scullin left the meeting.)

Chairman's Communications

Chairman Lemois stated that the tax bills will be going out. As of 6/30/15 we will become one district and understands that not everything has been unanimous. We are working with a budget that is going to cover the District with the unknowns of the audit.

In regards to the Finance Department, we will know on a weekly basis where we stand on key budget items such as overtime, maintenance and tax collections. Sound financial practices and standards are in place. The cost of the budget will be tied in with the contract. He mentioned that though the four contracts took years to write and update, the district had merger of the contracts completed within 6 months with a very teamwork approach. Like the budget, this is a starting point.

The Chairman wanted to address some points made during the budget hearings. As they were pointed he was interested in learning about them. He reported that in all actualities N. Kingstown FD did not save 2 million dollars as some have said. In fact has requested an increase of \$855,000 for fiscal 20116. It was also noted that the CFD is less expensive per man than the NKFD, once we cut out municipal costs. The Coventry District was also mentioned. The Chairman reported that even though the state appointed receiver, without the need of approval from any group or persons, literally striped the CBA and other district cost. Still when calculating tax bills a house in Cumberland pays \$200 less than a similar house in Coventry.

Chairman Lemois concluded that as long as we work together with a positive overtone, the District will be merged successfully. He thanked firefighters and the Board for all their hard work.

Jeff McCabe and Brian Bernardo came up to the Board to sign the contracts. A control copy will go to headquarters.

COMMISSIONER KOUTSIAGNE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:56 P.M.
SECOND BY COMMISSSIONER CHAMPAGNE. PASSED 6-0. (Commissioner Scullin was absent for the vote).

Submitted by:

Debra Auclair
Committee Clerk