

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2004

Opening:

The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District was called to order at 7:02 pm on Wednesday, September 15, 2004 by Acting Chairman Paul Lindquist.

Present: Members Absent:

Paul Lindquist, Acting Chairman Edward LeBlanc, Chairman

Ronald Dupont Brian Campbell

Martin Klara

Matthew Gannon

Robert Audette

John Aharonian

Others Present:

Rene Gendreau, Fire Chief

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Geraldine Dupont, Tax Collector

Daniel Hamel, Treasurer (excused at 7:12pm)

A. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont , seconded by Mr. Klara to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hamel presented a Financial Summary for August 2004, Profit and Loss Statement dated August 2004 and a Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2004. Requested items explained were:

#1044 of the Balance Sheet (CUCF Money Market) of which Treasurer Hamel will look into.

#3900 of the Balance Sheet (Retained Income) which was explained as accumulated earnings over time. Reference was made to "net income" on the profit and loss statement to further explain this item.

A motion was made by Mr. Klara, seconded by Mr. Dupont to accept the Treasurer's Report . All in favor. So voted.

Treasurer Hamel is excused from the meeting at this time (7:12pm).

C. Tax Collector's Report

The Tax Collector's Report shows taxes collected during the month of August 2004 and taxes collected and deposited through August 2004.

Mrs. Dupont announced the Tax Sale being held on September 23, 2004 at 4:00pm. She commended Attorney Baker on what a tremendous job she has done in helping the District collect taxes due.

She also stated that many people were paying the taxes owed but not the legal fees. It was recommended that a lien be held on property until the legal fees were paid. Mr. Lindquist asked what the cost was to the District for Attorney Baker's services. Mrs. Dupont did not know. She was asked to confirm this information as soon as possible. Mr. Lindquist asked that the Tax Collector request a solution from Attorney Baker as how to collect the unpaid legal fees.

"Additional Bills" on the report were explained as property purchased after the tax role was written.

A motion was made by Mr. Audette, seconded by Mr. Aharonian to accept the Tax Collector's Report. All in favor. So voted.

D. Chief's Report and Monthly Expenditures

Chief Gendreau announced that the firefighters have been out replacing the hydrant markers which were replaced at no charge due to a defect.

The major repairs to Engine 54 were explained.

An additional bill was added to #6050. Fire Tech in the amount of \$135.66 for the refilling of fire extinguishers brings the total bills to

\$11,255.02.

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont , seconded by Mr. Klara to accept the Chief's Report. All in favor. So voted.

E. Committee Reports

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes – No comments.

Personnel, Labor Relations, Negotiations, Nominations – Mr. Lindquist requested that the committee schedule a meeting with the Chief to discuss his proposal for additional firefighters. Chief Gendreau distributed a copy of House Bill No. 7590 SUB A. He referenced page three lines 32 & 33. After researching these items he found that retired Chief Carpentier should be covered under the District's plan (group rate) and not be charged for an individual plan, which would save the District some money. He is waiting to hear from Blue Cross to see if he can be added in November or if he will have to wait for open enrollment in July.

Negotiations – No comments.

Buildings, Ground and Apparatus – No comments.

Insurance – No comments.

Public Relations – No comments.

Nominations – No comments.

F. Old Business

Tax Sale - Chief Gendreau reported that the majority of complaints regarding the tax bill were of lead time. Many stated that they received their bill only days before they were due. Many issues were raised.

A. If the bill is received by the old owner (address forwarded) and thrown away, the new owner never receives it and then one day receives a certified letter in the mail.

B. Fire taxes should be paid at closing. Many are not. Attorneys are difficult to deal with after closing.

C. Delay in recording property transfers at the Town Hall.

It was suggested that all abusive phone calls be directed to Attorney Baker.

Charter Revision - Mr. Dupont reported that the Charter is ready to go to the January Session.

Chase Vehicle – Mr. Dupont stated that this item is on hold.

ISO Report – Mr. Klara reported that he, the Chief, and Mr. Campbell met with a representative from ISO. The report is being reviewed and changes in the report are being made. The District has some simple corrections to make that will bring the District up to where it was before. The Chief will meet with ISO again.

G. New Business – None

H. Public Comment - Mr. Grenier questioned the relationship between the ISO report and the bill the District receives from the Town Water Department. He is curious as to whether or not there should be a reduction in the bill if the Water Department is not providing us with the serviceability to meet the ISO or NFPA standards. Chief Genderon offered to try to get the records and discuss this issue with the Water Department. Mr Grenier also mentioned that the Police Station is currently upgrading their Communications Center which may help in the District's rating.

I. Executive Session

Motion is made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Klara to enter into Executive Session in accordance with Rhode Island Law 42-46-5, Sub-section 2 at 8:15pm.

Motion is made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Dupont to exit Executive Session all in favor . So voted.

Adjournment

Motion is made by Mr. Dupont to adjourn the meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District at 8:28pm, Seconded by Mr. Gannon. All in favor. So voted.

**Minutes submitted by: Fay B. Dakake,
Clerk _____**

**Approved by: Edward LeBlanc,
Chairman _____**