

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2005

Opening:

The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District was called to order at

7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2005 by acting chairman Edward LeBlanc.

Present:

Edward LeBlanc

Paul Lindquist

Martin Klara

Matthew Gannon

Ronald Dupont

Brian Campbell

Robert Audette

John Aharonian

Others Present:

Rene Gendreau, Chief

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Geraldine Dupont, Tax Collector

Daniel Hamel, Treasurer

A. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to approve the Clerk's report as written. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hamel's report included:

- o Financial summary dated February 16, 2005**
- o Tax collections report dated January 31, 2005**
- o Profit and Loss statement dated January 2005**
- o Profit and Loss statement July through January 2005**
- o Balance sheet as of January 31, 2005**

Chairman LeBlanc requested the amount of unused sick time which was due retired Deputy Chief Garon. Chief Gendreau replied \$11,397.26. A discussion ensued as to whether this type of expense should be budgeted for. The consensus was that this expense is not easily calculated, it is an arbitrary amount. It was agreed to continue to pay this type of expense out of the payroll account.

Mr. Campell entered the room at 7:05 p.m.

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

C. Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector Geraldine Dupont's report shows taxes collected during and through the month of January 2005.

Chairman LeBlanc noted that when he came to the Board in June of '03 the total of taxes due was \$122,000. One year ago it was \$119,000. Currently it is only \$3,677. Mrs. Dupont was thanked for her hard work.

A motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Campbell to accept the tax collector's report. All in favor. So voted.

D. Chief's Report and Monthly Expenditures

Chief Gendreau submitted a monthly report and expenditures dated January 2005.

Chief Gendreau pointed out:

- o Turn-Out gear has been ordered with a 90 day turn around time due to the high demand from the military for thermal gear.**
- o Truck 5 and 54 have had quite a bit of work done**
- o Truck 51 got new snow tires**
- o Truck 54 was in a slight accident. It is being taken care of by the**

other partie's insurance company.

Chairman Leblanc asked the Chief where the money came out of the budget for the new protective gear. The Chief replied line number 6030 "Upgrading and Purchasing New Equipment". Chairman LeBlanc commended Captain Delisle for a proposal well presented on the protective gear. Chairman LeBlanc requested the list of specifications which were requested in the bidding process for the new turn-out gear.

An additional bill was added to account #6050 American Fire (repair _____ tool) in the amount of \$50.00 Bringing the total bills to \$21,702.77

Chairmain LeBlanc questioned the snow removal expense paid to Captain Delisle. He wanted to know why NCFD didn't have any snow removal expense last year. It was stated by the Chief that last year they had more personnel with plows that were doing it while on duty. Captain Delise has been coming by while off duty during his regular route to plow the apron. Chairman LeBlanc asked if NCFD was required by law to put that type of service out to bid. Chief Gendreau noted that other departments have and have found it to be more expensive. It seemed that the plowing contracts come with a premium whether it snows or not.

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

E. Committee Reports

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

No comment.

Personnel, Labor Relations

Mr. Lindquist requested that this be discussed in executive session.

Negotiations

Chairman LeBlanc stated that we are beginning negotiations for a new labor contract next week.

Nominations

No comment.

Buildings, Grounds, Apparatus, Computer

Mr. Klara reported that he is awaiting figures from Chief Gendreau outlining the expense of either refurbishing or purchasing a new truck.

Insurance

Chief Gendreau reported that insurance is all set until May when the accident insurance is due.

Public Relations

Chief Gendreau reported that the NCFD personnel commented on the excellent meal that was put on at the Beagle Club by the Board. The Chief mentioned that the Union recently held a testimonial for Deputy Garron.

F. Old Business

FY 04 & 05 Fire Act Grants

The Chief announced that he attended a seminar on Fire Act Grants whose application period is March 7 through April 8. He learned that equipment requested that is chemical, radiological, biological or nuclear standard, the government sends it to the state for state review and, if you are not a member of the state's response plan, they will deny it. Everything that was requested last year was CPRN compliant. He feels that we could have lost everything that was requested for that reason. This year NCFD plans to request new exercise equipment including a personal trainer to demonstrate how to properly use the equipment and also a nutritionist. This all falls under personal protective equipment. Some personal protective equipment such as a second thermal imaging camera will be requested in order for NCFD to have one on both trucks. The Chief stated he requested a truck three years ago and found that our trucks were not old enough. He will go over the grant with chairman

LeBlanc before he submits it.

Chairman LeBlanc agreed with Mr. Gannon about getting politicians involved. He feels a politician's input does count on grants. Chairman LeBlanc will write a letter for our Mayor to sign supporting our grant. He plans to include Representative Kennedy's office. He will also engage Senator Reed as Chief Gendreau stated Senator Reed hosted the recent seminar he attended.

Charter Revision Language

Mr. Dupont spoke to representative Singleton who found that the language in the charter was okay. It was being submitted for approval to the house, presumably last week, for approval and expected out either this week or next.

G. New Business

Promotional Vacancy

The Chief stated he posted the notice of promotional exam for deputy chief on the board and the deadline for letter a of intent is a week from Monday. By contract, once we post for the exam we must post with source material for 90 days, to give applicants 90 days to study. Once the materials are received from California he will post the date of exam. This is just within the department, this position

falls within the contract.

Boston Globe

Chairman LeBlanc encouraged the Board to read a series in the Boston Globe which is available on-line. The topic of the series is fire departments in general.

One topic in particular was the standard nationwide for on-time response. This standard is less than six minutes in 90 percent of the calls. The number of departments who met this standard nationwide was 35 percent. In 1986-2002 NCFD met that standard 97.2 percent of the time.

H. Public Comment

Lt. Emerson read a letter written by acting Deputy Chief Charles Delisle making recommendation that in addition to hiring a new firefighter to replace the vacancy left by Deputy Chief Garon he would like the Board to consider the hiring of an additional day firefighter to bolster manpower and to allow for a two truck response. Industry standards dictate a two in two out policy. He feels funds that are now ear marked for the call force could fund this position since we don't really have a day call force.

A discussion pursued that suggested that most fires were during the day and that many of the call personnel are not available during the day.

Chairman LeBlanc asked Mr. Lindquist and his personnel committee to get together with the Chief to discuss this matter and to bring it to the Board. Mr. Lindquist agreed.

I. Executive Session

Motion is made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Lindquist to enter into Executive Session in accordance with Rhode Island Law 42-46-5, sub-section 2.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Klara, to hire Kyle Garon as probationary firefighter based on the eligibility list and interview. All in favor. So voted.

Adjournment

Motion is made by Mr. Lindquist to adjourn the meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dupont. All in favor. So voted.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk _____

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc _____

Chairman