

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2005

Opening:

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

7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 by, Chairman Edward LeBlanc.

Present: Absent:

Edward LeBlanc Robert Audette

Paul Lindquist

Martin Klara

Matthew Gannon

Ronald Dupont

Brian Campbell

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 March 16, 2005**
- o Tax collections report dated February 28, 2005**
- o Balance sheet as of February 28, 2005**
- o Profit and Loss statement dated February, 2005**
- o Profit and Loss statement July through February, 2005**

Treasurer Hamel points out that on page one of the Financial Summary, the payroll includes retired Deputy Chief Garson's severance. The pension line includes two months of expenses. Receipt of the third payment of Rhode Island excise tax was indicated. He advised the Board that 20,000. in legal fees will be seen in the March report. To date, \$9,500. has been collected. The intent is to recoup all fees incurred.

Chairman LeBlanc inquired why the figures on the Tax Collector's Report and the Treasurer's Report are not the same. Treasurer Hamel stated he would go over the figures with the Tax Collector to come up with a reasonable explanation.

Chairman LeBlanc questioned expense item number 6470 (Computer Development Progr....) of the Profit & Loss statement in the amount of \$546.79. It was explained by Chief Gendreau as the cost of the annual fire program support and virus protection.

A motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Gannon, to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. All in favor. So voted.

C. Tax Collectors Report

Tax Collector Dupont distributed a report dated March 16, 2005. She indicated that next month she will begin to send out 300 to 400 legal letters before turning them over to the attorney. Postage was requested. Collected so far this month: \$17,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to accept the Tax Collector's report as written. All in favor. So voted.

D. Chief's Report/Monthly Expenditures

Chief Gendreau submitted a monthly report for February 2005. The following topics were discussed:

- o Old air pack seats were put on E-Bay with no response. Under the advice of Cumberland, they are being shipped to El Salvador.**
- o Mr. Johnson was advised regarding the new storage shed. He had**

no objection. He offered to help repair the broken granite post if NCFD were unsuccessful in its repair.

o A homeland security grant was just received by the Town in the amount of \$200,300. A town-wide meeting was held to determine how it would be spent. The bulk of it will go to mandatory training in order to receive any further funding. Last year, Cumberland Fire district received a federal grant to update the radio system. The current Bills Report distributed includes NCFD's portion. One-fifth of the department share is \$3447.20 Each of the four fire departments are getting a new mobile radio for every vehicle, 25 new portable radios, 25 batteries and a new station radio.

o On- spot tire chains were explained as a canister, a can with chains and an air compressor used on slick roads. With flip of a switch, and drop down and spin underneath the wheels. They are needed even with four-wheel drive.

o Lt. Pratt is in the process of organizing the records for all trucks to document repairs done since 1993. This record of maintenance will be used to track repairs and to schedule routine maintenance.

A motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Klara, to accept the Chief's and Monthly Expenditures Report as written. All in favor. So voted.

E. Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

Chief Gendreau requested that Budget Committee be set up soon in order to get ready to prepare for next year's fiscal budget. Treasurer Hamel agreed to get it started.

F. Personnel, Labor Relations

Mr. Lindquist reported that no meeting was held on extra manpower. He requested that these issues be tabled until after the budget meeting.

The Chief recommended that promotional oral interviews be given before the written exam to avoid the suggestion of skewed scores.

G. Negotiations

Chairman LeBlanc stated that labor contract negotiations have begun and they are progressing.

H. Nominations

Mr. Gannon advised that the Board will be looking for two people, as his and Mr. Aharonian terms will be up in July. He asked the Chief to post this information in the newspaper. He and Mr. Aharonian were advised to send letters of intent if they wish to continue.

I. Building, Grounds, Apparatus, Computer

Chief Gendreau submitted a report to Mr. Klara in regard to Engine

54.

J. Insurance

Chief Gendreau distributed copies of a renewal proposal for the accident and sickness policy from VFSI of Southern New England (Beacon Mutual). There is an increase of \$2889. over last year. The insurance company explains the increase is due to the loss history and a rate change. The Chairman asked that this item be discussed further once everyone had a chance to digest the proposal.

K. Public Relations

No comment.

L. Old Business

1. Promotional Vacancy

The Chief remarked that the exam will be given Wednesday evening June 8, 2005.

2. Grants

Chairman LeBlanc spoke about the Fire Act grant which he and the Chief are preparing. He has spoken to several people. Congressman Patrick Kennedy, Senator Reed and Senator Chafee will be happy to support our request. The deadline for this grant is April 8 at 5:00 p.m.

3. Computers

The Chief explained that he contacted fire programs. He intended to go to a multi-user rather than a single user in order for him to access and work on the records from the office. Currently, single user support costs \$350. per year. To go to a multi-user it would be \$1430. plus the annual fee of \$690. He and Lt. Emerson are looking into a dedicated server for program access from any computer but only for one person at a time. Having a dedicated server would be more cost effective. They are researching costs and other options.

Chairman LeBlanc asked Mr. Campbell to contact Mr. Audette as the part of the Technology/Info Systems Committee to take a look at long term cost effective alternatives.

4. The Charter

Mr. Dupont advised the council that the Charter did pass the House three weeks ago and is expected to be through the Senate next week.

M. New Business

No comment.

N. Public Comment

No comment.

Adjournment

Motion is made by Mr. Dupont to adjourn the meeting of the North

Cumberland Fire District at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Mr. Klara. All in favor. So voted.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk _____

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc _____

Chairman