

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2005

Opening:

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

7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, by Chairman Edward LeBlanc.

Present:

Edward LeBlanc, Chairman

Paul Lindquist

Martin Klara

Matthew Gannon

John Aharonian

Robert Audette

Brian Campbell (arrived 7:14pm)

Others Present: Absent:

Rene Gendreau, Chief Daniel Hamel, Treasurer

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Geraldine Dupont, Tax Collector

A. Approval of Minutes

While reviewing the minutes Chairman LeBlanc requested that the Chief and the Treasurer reconcile all accounts. He also asked if Cox had been hired for e-mail service. The Chief responded that he had not spoken to Cox yet.

A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to approve the Clerk's Report of September 21, 2005 as written. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer Hamel, his reports were presented by Chief Gendreau.

- o Financial Summary, September, 2005**
- o Tax Collections, September 30, 2005**
- o Profit and Loss Statement, September, 2005**
- o Profit & Loss July – September, 2005**
- o Balance sheet as of September 30, 2005**

Chairman LeBlanc noted that the Board should review the October 19, 2005 Treasurer's Report at the next meeting in light of the Treasurer's absence.

Mr. Gannon questioned the following items on the Profit and Loss Statement:

#6410 Newspaper Ads - Sep, 05 \$312.76 – Sep 04 \$1127.82

The Chief stated the bills he submitted with this month's report were not included. (see item 6410 of the Chief's Expense Report)

#6470 Computer Development Program - Sep 05 \$2967.97 – Sep 04 \$62.98

The Chief stated that a new computer and server had been purchased. Mr. Klara stated it was purchased in order to network the department.

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

C. Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector Geraldine Dupont's report shows taxes collected during the month of October, 2005, and through October, 2005. Chairman LeBlanc asked why the figure for taxes due in 2004 was higher than on last month's report. Tax Collector Dupont stated she had gone over the trial balance sheet and the higher figure prevailed. Chairman LeBlanc questioned why a negative figure was listed under the taxes collected during October. The question was unresolved.

A motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Audette, 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 for September, 2005, and an Expenditures Report dated October 19, 2005.

Chief Gendreau announced that a mobile command center was jointly purchased with Central Falls and Lincoln utilizing a homeland security grant which was received by the Town of Cumberland. The command center is owned by the municipalities of Cumberland, Central Falls and Lincoln. Training sessions were held on the use of the mobile command center in which he, Deputy Pratt and Lt. Emerson's shift attended. In case of any major incidents the mobile command center is available for any department within those three communities. It is parked at the Cumberland Police Station. Comprehensive emergency planning sessions will be held by each of these municipalities to be evaluated by each other.

Brian Campbell entered the room (7:14pm).

Chairman LeBlanc questioned line item 6490 Orthopaedic Associates, Inc. \$143,000 for S. Garon injury. Chief Gendreau explained this is a job-related injury that is the Department's responsibility as has been discussed with Attorney Al West.

A motion was made by Mr. Klara, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept

the Chief's Report and the Monthly Expenditures. All in favor. So voted.

E. Committee Reports

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

No comment.

Personnel, Labor Relations

Mr. Lindquist requested that his item be discussed in Executive Session.

Nominations

Mr. Aharonian agreed with Chairman LeBlanc that nominations would be discussed in Executive Session.

Buildings, Grounds, Apparatus, Computer

The Chief reported that the Deputy Chief had brought in his own personal computer and that it had crashed. He stated he has requested that Lt. Emerson work on getting the District a new computer for the Deputy's use. It will be used primarily for fire code. It will be charged off to the fire prevention account. It will not come out of the computer account.

The deck has been completed except for the balusters and railings.

The weather has hampered its completion. Captain Delise and his shift have worked very hard.

Insurance

No comment.

Public Relations

The Chief reported that many thank you calls have been received after the recent heavy rainfall. Eight new pumps have been purchased. He has submitted paperwork to the Town for reimbursement of approximately \$3,000 for the cost of the pumps and manpower required.

F. Old Business

Tax Exemption List from Town of Cumberland

Tax Collector Dupont has been unsuccessful in hearing back from the town's tax collector regarding her request for a copy of the tax exempt list.

Tax Sale

Tax Collector Dupont reported 7 properties were posted for the recent

tax sale. All 7 properties were sold.

Fire Department Consolidation

Chairman LeBlanc explained that at the initial meeting of the District Merger Panel Cumberland and N. Cumberland Districts did not have representation. Since then, the Mayor has extended an invitation to Chairman LeBlanc to be a voting member of the Panel as well as a member of the Legal Sub-Committee and to Chief Gendreau to be a member of the Chief's Sub-Committee. Firefighters Rob O'Neil and Brian Bernado have been invited to be a part of the Firefighter Sub-Committee. Currently, the Panel is looking for a way to merge if, in fact, that is what they are going to do. They have not yet explored why they would merge. Chairman LeBlanc's criterion is that it has to be as safe or safer than currently and have fire fighter job continuity. Mr. Linqvist voiced his concern about taxpayer cost. Chairman LeBlanc agreed. Financially, NCFD is in better shape than other districts. The full Panel is scheduled to meet every two weeks.

The Chief reported that he has been approached by the Cumberland Fire District to bring the boards together and consolidate NCFD with CFD. Chairman LeBlanc acknowledged that he has received a letter as well. Chairman LeBlanc asked if any of the Board members were interested in pursuing or being a representative in that effort. There was no response from the Board.

Mr. Klara asked the Chief if there had been any new information

regarding the bridge on Diamond Hill Road at Nate Whipple Highway. He stated he has a meeting the 1st Wednesday in November in Providence and an Open Meeting is scheduled at North Cumberland Middle School the following night.

G. New Business

Charter

Chairman LeBlanc announced that the Union and Management signed a charter to establish a Labor and Management Committee. Copies were distributed. Chairman LeBlanc hopes this will help address issues to be resolved quickly and easily. He asked for volunteers to serve on this Board. He is hoping to have the first meeting sometime later this month or in early November. The target would be to meet once a quarter. Mr. Klara asked if this committee would fall under the Open Meeting Law. The question remained unanswered.

Revised Business Objectives

Copies were distributed by Chairman LeBlanc. Chairman LeBlanc commented on the following:

#2. The Negotiation Committee needs to begin work on charting out the method to get from where we are to where we need to be in order to enroll in the State Pension System as agreed in the contract.

#1 Hiring of Additional Firefighter – Chairman LeBlanc asked the Chief to come up with recommendations as to why there is a need. There is a line item in the budget. Chief Gendreau stated that grant awards have not been completed. The Chairman asked the Chief to document why there is a need for an additional firefighter in case the grant is not awarded.

#5 Chairman LeBlanc asked Tax Collector Dupont if she had documents explaining the process for tax collections and tax sales. She replied no. She will put it in writing.

#6 Firefighter Appreciation Day – A replacement of coordinators was requested in light of Board member Ron Dupont and Tax Collector Dupont's retirement.

#7 New Fire Truck – Chairman LeBlanc asked that the Department present documentation to the Apparatus, Building and Ground Committee outlining their criteria for a new fire truck, including bids.

Resolution

The Chief distributed copies of a new resolution. He stated that under the new homeland security and federal laws, fire departments and police departments (municipalities) will not be eligible for federal funding next year unless they are participants in the National

Incident Management System (NIMS). He stated the Town of Cumberland has adopted a resolution but the individual fire districts must adopt the resolution to be eligible for funding. Additionally, every member of the Department must be certified in the NIMS. A free online course is available. There is state and federal sponsored training. The resolution must be in place and the certification process must begin by June of 2006 in order to be eligible for funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Gannon abstained from voting. All others voted in favor. So voted.

H. Public Comment

Firefighter and tax-payer Brian Bernado voiced his support to examine a separate merger with the Cumberland Fire District before the Town's possible take over. Chairman LeBlanc offered to follow

through with Marcel Bacon. Chief Gendreau stated he was a proponent of consolidated district departments but not in favor of a consolidated municipal department. As a municipal department there is competition with other departments in town for funding.

Captain Delisle remarked that operationally, all the fire departments run as one department. In merging with the Cumberland District, money would be saved by shifting equipment. He acknowledged that the NIMS program is nothing more than what the department is doing now but it would recognize NCFD nationally and allow the Department to apply for funding.

Chairman LeBlanc recognized this meeting as Tax Collector Dupont's last meeting. She was presented with a letter on behalf of the North Cumberland Fire District extending their sincere appreciation of her outstanding service.

Executive Session

Chairman LeBlanc stated that although an Executive Session was not posted on the meeting agenda, he has determined that, in order to protect the public, an Executive Session is in order.

Motion is made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Klara, to enter into Executive Session. All in favor. So voted.

Return to Public Meeting

Motion is made by Mr. Aharonian, seconded by Mr. Lindquist to offer Marilyn Pielick the position of Tax Collector for the NCFD. All in favor. So voted.

Adjournment

Motion is made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Audette to adjourn the meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District at 8:50pm. All in favor. So voted.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk _____

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc _____

Chairman