

**North Cumberland Fire District**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 21, 2007**

**Present: Absent:**

**Robert Audette Edward LeBlanc, Chairman**

**Brian Campbell John Aharonian**

**Matthew Gannon Joseph Baglini**

**Paul Lindquist**

**Robert J. Murray**

**Others Present:**

**Rene Gendreau, Chief**

**Fay Dakake, Clerk**

**Daniel Hamel, Treasurer**

**Martin Klara, Tax Collector**

**Prior to the opening of the meeting Mr. Lindquist announced that Chairman LeBlanc would not be in attendance this evening. He asked for a motion from someone on the Board to elect a chairman for the evening.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Audette, seconded by Mr. Gannon, to nominate Mr. Lindquist as acting chairman for the evening. All in favor. So voted.**

## **Opening:**

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

**7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, by acting chairman, Paul Lindquist.**

**Resident, Mr. Philip Koutsogiane was acknowledged as being in attendance.**

### **A. Approval of Minutes**

**A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Murray, to accept the Clerk's Report of January 17, 2007 as written. All in favor. So voted.**

### **B. Treasurer's Report**

**The Treasurer's Report dated February 21, 2007, was reviewed and included the following:**

- o Financial Summary, January, 2006**
- o Tax Collections, January 31, 2007**
- o Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison as of January 31, 2007**
- o Profit and Loss Statement, January, 2007**
- o Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July 2006 through January 2007**

**Mr. Lindquist suggested that the Tax Collections figure of the Financial Summary should be 59,957.46 as reflected in the Tax**

**Collector's Report not 59,957.00. Treasurer Hamel agreed. Treasurer Hamel pointed out that to date, 94% of taxes due have been collected. At this time last year 93% had been collected.**

**Ed LeBlanc had asked Mr. Lindquist to question the increase in this month's payroll over last year. Treasurer believes that it is just a matter of the number of weeks and how the payroll fell.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Murray, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated February 21, 2007, as written. All in favor. So voted.**

### **C. Tax Collector's Report**

**The Tax Collector's Report dated February, 2007, was reviewed. Mr. Klara accredited the increase in income this year over last to a December mailing to delinquent accounts. Seconded notices were sent to delinquencies 1 year and older.**

**Tax Collector Klara reported that attorney Baker has not returned his phone call to finalize the Marszalkowski account. Mr. Klara has the figures for the Treasurer to write the checks but feels this should not be done until a meeting is held with attorney Baker.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the February, 2007, Tax Collector's Report. All in favor. So voted.**

#### **D. Chief's Report and Monthly Expenditures**

**Chief Gendreau submitted a Monthly Report for January, 2007 including an Expenditures Report dated February 21, 2007.**

**Chief Gendreau highlighted:**

**fæ 106 calls during the month of January with a good amount of them being EMS.**

**fæ An official e-mail was received from Department of Homeland Security awarding the Department a grant submitted requesting \$85,000. The Department was approved for the entire amount. The government pays 90%, the districts pay 10%. This award will be shared by all the fire districts in Cumberland and will be used to purchase personal protection equipment. NCFD is interested in purchasing a Portocount, an instrument used to test the fit of a face mask.**

**fæ Hope Global has offered NCFD office furniture during the closing of its property on Martin Street. Several pieces were received including a cabinet, a desk and a conference table.**

**fæ Personnel service awards have been received but not distributed due to the cancellation of the appreciation dinner. The appreciation dinner was canceled due to lack of participation. Chief Gendreau prefers not to be involved in the rescheduling of the appreciation dinner as the preparation for the original date was very time consuming.**

**The topic of the appreciation dinner was placed on the agenda for the next meeting.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Gannon, to accept the Chief's Report dated January, 2007 including expenses. All in favor. So voted.**

## **E. Committee Reports**

### **Insurance**

**Chief Gendreau stated insurance premiums for everything except workers' compensation insurance has been received. He was surprised that the premiums only increased by \$57.00 even with the addition of the new vehicle.**

**Mr. Murray asked if insurance has ever gone out to bid. Chief Gendreau stated that it had approximately 3 years ago and historically VFIS has come in as the lowest bidder. He suggested that in light of the serious push to consolidate that nothing be done this year as all 4 districts currently use VFIS.**

### **Financial Management, Budget, Taxes**

**Mr. Murray is working to set up a sweep account with Citizen's Bank Municipal Division.**

## **Personnel**

**To be covered in Executive Session.**

## **Labor Relations**

**No comment.**

## **Nominations**

**None at this time.**

## **Buildings, Grounds, Apparatus, Computer**

**No comment.**

## **Public Relations**

**Chief Gendreau received a letter from the Muscular Dystrophy Association thanking the Department for their tireless efforts with this year's Fill The Boot Campaign.**

**Fire Marshall Grenier submitted an article to the Valley Breeze entitled Chimney Safety Tips from the North Cumberland Fire Department as well as distributed ice safety information to the schools.**

**Chief Gendreau wrote a letter to the Valley Breeze regarding the newly awarded Grant from the Federal Government and thanked Senator Reed and Bob Waters from FIMA who conducted the**

**seminar he attended. He also thanked the past and present Providence Fire Chiefs for the use of their facility for the seminar.**

## **F. Old Business**

### **Fire Hydrants**

**Mr. Philip Koutsogiane, a resident of NCFD approached the Board suggesting a resident volunteer program to help the firefighters shovel out the fire hydrants in the event of a snow storm. Chief Gendreau liked the idea but had concerns over the liability. As an attorney, Mr. Koutsoginae agreed to look in to the liability issue. He will communicate with Chief Gendreau.**

### **Fire Department Consolidation**

**Mr. Lindquist announced that an all day meeting will take place on March 3, 2007 at the Cumberland Library in preparation for educating the taxpayers.**

**The District Chairmen representing NCFD, Cumberland, and Valley Falls met with the Mayor McKee who was very supportive of the merger.**

**Cumberland Hill Fire District, who has been on the sidelines of the possible merger, has now joined the group in investigating the possibility. Chief Susi has concerns over the cost to the taxpayers.**

**As stated in the past, the final decision is that of the taxpayers.**

#### **G. New Business**

**On behalf of the Consolidation Committee, Mr. Lindquist asked the Board to contribute to the financial support of the Consolidation Committee. Each District is seeking \$500.00 from their respective districts to deposit into a checking account established by the Clerk of the Consolidation Committee. These funds will be used for meeting and Clerk expenses. The clerk will report and be accountable for these expenses.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Murray, to donate \$500.00 to the Consolidation Committee for the use of meeting and clerk expenses. All in favor. So voted.**

#### **H. Public Comment**

**No comment**

**Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Murray, and unanimously carried to enter into Executive Session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5 (2) Negotiations at 7:36 p.m.**

**Return to Public Meeting**

#### **I. Adjournment**

**Motion was by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Murray, and  
unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 8:03 p.m.**

**Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_**

**Approved by: Paul Lindquist \_\_\_\_\_**

**Acting Chairman**