

# **North Cumberland Fire District**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**September 17, 2008**

**Present: Absent:**

**Edward LeBlanc, Chairman**

**Robert Audette (arrived 8:05 p.m.)**

**Brian Campbell     John Aharonian**

**Robert J. Murray     Matthew Gannon**

**Paul Lindquist**

**Others Present:**

**Rene Gendreau, Chief     Dan Hamel, Treasurer**

**Fay Dakake, Clerk**

**Martin Klara, Tax Collector**

**Opening:**

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

**7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, by Chairman Edward LeBlanc.**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**Referencing F. Old Business of the pending August 20, 2008 meeting minutes, Chairman LeBlanc noted a typographical error. The labor contract is valid through June 30, 2011 not 2001.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to accept the minutes of the August 20, 2008 meeting as written and corrected by Chairman Edward LeBlanc. All in favor. So voted.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Murray, to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2008 special meeting as written by Chairman Edward LeBlanc. All in favor. So voted.**

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

**Although Treasurer Hamel was not in attendance, he had previously submitted his report dated 17 September 2008 which included:**

- Profit & Loss Budget Overview July 2008 through June 2009**
- Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July 2005 through June 2006**
- Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July 2006 through June 2007**
- Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July 2007 Through June 2008**
- Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison As of June 30, 2006**
- Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison As of June 30, 2007**
- Balance Sheet Prev year Comparison as of June 30, 2008**

**Chief Gendreau noted a long overdue state excise check in the amount of \$27,882. was received the first of the month and will appear on the Treasurer's Report next month.**

**Chairman LeBlanc would like clarification from the Treasurer on item 1375 “Returned Checks” in the amount of \$4054. Chairman LeBlanc noted the absence of the Expedition on the assets list as requested at the last meeting and questioned whether the lease for the Expedition should appear on the liabilities side.**

**Mr. Murray suggested that during the month of October a sum of money (an estimated \$500,000.) be placed in a 5 or 6 month CD spread among several institutions. He will speak to the treasurer.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the Treasurer’s Report. All in favor. So voted.**

#### **C. Tax Collector’s Report**

**Tax Collector Klara submitted his report dated, September 2008. He will be submitting a bill in the amount of \$16,600. from Thibodeau & Baker for collection services to date. With an estimated \$120,000. in taxes due, Mr. Klara does not expect to reach the same levels as last September, noting a significant increase in tax inquiry calls.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Murray, to accept the Tax Collector’s Report dated September 2008. All in favor. So voted.**

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

**Chief Gendreau submitted a Monthly Report for August 2008. An updated Expenditures Report including Blue Cross dated September 17, 2008 was**

**e-mailed to all board members today. He highlighted the following:**

- 84 calls for the month of August, a 25% reduction from the previous year**
- The Department reseeded and fertilized the lawn destroyed by the parade committee.**
- Maintenance and plumbing work was done.**
- Work to be completed on Truck 5**
- Cumberland Fest detail has been paid to the Department**
- Upcoming detail at Community School**

**A 15% firefighter detail surcharge was decided upon to cover administrative costs.**

**A copy of the ad for the Fire Chief's position was distributed. The Chief's position was advertised in the Times, The Call and The Valley Breeze. Due to high cost, it was not advertised on the Providence Journal web-site. The ad was placed on the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs and the Fire House web-sites at no cost.**

**A Valley Breeze newspaper article highlighting Fr. Kieton as the newly appointed chaplain for all fire departments and the rescue service was reviewed.**

**Chief Gendreau presented a letter from Michelle D. Baker, Esq. noting an enclosed copy of a Claim which has been filed against the Estate of Beatrice Langelier currently pending before the Probate Court of the Town of Cumberland.**

**A letter from Delta Dental outlining a new dental insurance premium tax taking effect on January 1, 2009 was distributed.**

**The hiring procedure, which was explained to all applicants before the written firefighter entrance exam was given on February 9, 2008, was circulated.**

**The Chief thanked the Union President and the Union Body for a stand of solidarity during a recent event involving firefighters' attendance at funeral service for a deceased Valley Falls District firefighter.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Murray, to accept the Chief's Monthly Report for August 2008, including expenses. All in favor. So voted.**

**E. Committee Reports**

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

**Mr. Murray thanked all those involved for all the signings that were required by All America. The Chief has received the performance bond from Pierce. The contract is due overnight. Once received, reviewed and signed it will be returned to All America.**

## **Personnel, Labor Relations**

**Mr. Lindquist noted firefighter oral interviews have begun.**

## **Negotiations**

**No comment.**

## **Labor Management**

**With no one in attendance from that committee, Lt. Emerson who was in attendance during the recent labor management committee meeting reported a discussion of disability/liability insurance covering the call force. A meeting to explain coverage with VFIS and the call force was suggested.**

## **F. Old Business**

### **Rhode Island Retirement System/COLA**

**The state retirement board needs a resolution from the board to place**

**NCFD in the COLA system effective January 1, 2009. Although the contract would serve as approval of the board, the Chairman would like to draft a resolution stating that NCFD is adopting COLA for their firefighters effective for those who retire after January 1, 2009. No objection was made.**

## **G. New Business**

### **Board of Trustee Vacancy**

**The résumé's of John Patrick McCoy and Michael J. Spaziani were distributed and reviewed. Each applicant spoke on their own behalf.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to appoint Mr. John Patrick McCoy to the Board of Trustees of the North Cumberland Fire Department. All in favor. So voted.**

**Wishing the Board had two openings; the Board encouraged Mr. Spaziani to apply in the future.**

### **Fire Chief Applications**

**The application period closed on September 12, 2008. Twenty-six applications were received. Mr. Lindquist, as chairman of the personnel committee, will be the lead in evaluating the applications. Chairman LeBlanc will participate at his invitation along with the personnel committee. The November meeting has been targeted for a recommendation to the Board.**

## **Exercise Equipment**

**Lt. Emerson addressed the board requesting the replacement of the treadmill. An estimated figure of \$2,200. - \$3,000. was cited. The Chief noted an equipment budget, not specifying which type of equipment due to the constant change in priorities, with a balance of just under \$27,500. Mr. Murray offered to look at the possible donation of excess equipment.**

## **Business Plan Objectives**

**Chairman LeBlanc distributed and reviewed a revised business objectives outline for FY 2008-2009. Item 11 was added and named "Heating System".**

## **H. Public Comment**

**Union President Emerson announced a Steak Fry, Saturday, September 27, 2008 at the Lafayette Lodge at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00.**

**Dave Ferreira approached the Board to comment on the hiring process and would like to see greater recognition/preference given to the call force.**

**Mark Paquin commented the particular test given on February 9, 2008 was a general aptitude test and in the past the test has always been fire related. He feels NCFD would benefit from giving a fire related test as opposed to a general aptitude test.**

Noting that NCFD does give credit to call personnel, Chairman LeBlanc will ask the personnel committee chairman to review the weight and scale of all items involved in the scoring process. Lt. Emerson suggested that “additional training” be a considered item. Chief Gendreau cautioned the perimeters of equal opportunity employers. These perimeters are guidelines for funding. (Mr. Audette arrived 8:05 p.m.)

Mr. Lindquist stated that in conversation with Mr. Ferreira he mentioned that if this comes up as a policy matter, he would invite him to attend that meeting. Mr. Ferreira agreed.

Cheryl Ferreira brought to the attention of the Board that this Department has already invested in Dave and other call personnel. She also commented on what she sees as a lack of communication between the Department and the applicants.

Chairman LeBlanc thanked the public for their feedback on the hiring process.

## **Adjournment**

Motion was by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Lindquist and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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

**Approved**                      **by: Edward**                      **LeBlanc,**  
**Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_