

**North Cumberland Fire District**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 17, 2008**

**Present:**

**Edward LeBlanc, Chairman**

**John Aharonian**

**Robert Audette**

**Brian Campbell**

**Matthew Gannon**

**John Patrick McCoy**

**Robert J. Murray**

**Paul Lindquist**

**Absent:**

**Dan Hamel, Treasurer**

**Others Present:**

**Rene Gendreau, Chief**

**David DeVecchio (Incoming Chief)**

**Fay Dakake, Clerk**

**Martin Klara, Tax Collector**

**Opening:**

**The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) was called to order at 7:04 pm on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 by Chairman LeBlanc.**

**Chairman LeBlanc introduced David A. DeVecchio as the newly hired Chief to replace Chief Gendreau, who is scheduled to retired January, 2009.**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**The minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Chairman LeBlanc requested an editorial correction as follows: "There is uncertainty how the town got involved or made the jurisdiction determination."**

**Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to**

**accept the minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting as corrected.  
All in favor. So voted.**

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

**Although Treasurer Hamel was not in attendance, he previously submitted his report dated 17-Dec-08 which included:**

- Financial Summary November 2008**
- Tax Collections November 30, 2008**
- Profit & Loss November 2008**
- Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July through November 2008**
- Profit & Loss Budget Overview July through November 2008**
- Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison as of November 2008**
- Cash Flow Forecast Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

**After reviewing treasurer Hamel's reports of November and December, the following questions arose.**

- Location of the entry for the down payment of the Pierce Pumper**
- Explanation of the balance of the Contingency Fund**
- Explanation of line item 8500 (\$9,000.00 budgeted amount) of the Profit & Loss Budget Overview July through November 2008**
- Date and entry of deposit to Anglo Irish Bank**

**Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated 18- Nov -08. All in favor. So voted.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Audette, seconded by Mr. McCoy, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated 19- Dec -08 with questions to be asked of the treasurer regarding the \$225,00 truck down payment, status of the Anglo Irish Bank account and also the proper placement of the \$9000.00 debit. All in favor. So voted.**

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

**Tax Collector Klara submitted his report dated December 2008. He corrected his report, reporting two bounced checks totaling \$345.74.**

**Wondering if it were applicable to NCFD, he presented to the board an application for veteran exemptions pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 81- 379 of the Public Laws of 1987 and the State of Rhode Island received via mail from the Town of Cumberland.**

**.**

**Unable to reach treasurer Hamel, tax collector Klara is uncertain if refunds for adjustments, due to revaluation, have been paid.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Tax Collector's Report dated December 2008. All in favor. So voted.**

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

**Chief Gendreau submitted his monthly report for November 2008 including expenses dated December 17, 2008. He highlighted the following:**

- **119 calls, an increase of 34% from the previous year attributed to fire alarms.**
- **Attended monthly town wide Chief's meeting along with incoming Chief DelVecchio. Fire Alarms were discussed. It was agreed to have the alarm company add modules to at 10 least ten fire alarm boxes to discontinue sending trouble alarms. These fire alarm boxes are located in commercial buildings, churches and schools. The installation of the modules will be funded by the fire alarm account maintained by the Cumberland District.**
- **While at the Chief's meeting, incoming Chief DelVecchio offered valuable input in finalizing the town's May Day Policy.**
- **Chief Gendreau asked that the NCFD boat be put out of service.**
- **Cumberland Rescue personnel utilized NCFD's carbon monoxide pulse oximeter. A grant is pending for four additional meters to either be placed on each vehicle or to be distributed throughout town.**
- **Highway safety vests were purchased for department personnel to meet revised NFPA requirements.**
- **Uniform reimbursement on page two of the expense report was reviewed.**

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

#### **F. Committee Reports:**

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

**Chairman LeBlanc reported he received confirmation that NCFD is in the State COLA system. NCFD personnel retiring January 1, 2009 and afterward will be eligible.**

## **Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds**

**Mr. Aharonian reported the Truck Committee had met last Monday and they are currently reviewing shop drawings.**

## **Personnel/Labor Management**

**Mr. Lindquist reported the following:**

- Grievance to be discussed in Executive Session**
- A gift certificate was sent to Chief Pare for his efforts in the interview process for a new chief**
- A letter of thank you and appreciation was sent to all candidates who were interviewed for the Chief's position and were not offered the position.**

**Chairman LeBlanc announced the swearing in ceremony of incoming Chief DelVecchio to be held December 21, 2008 at 6pm at the station.**

## **Negotiations**

**Chairman LeBlanc is awaiting a retirement proposal from incoming Chief DelVecchio.**

## **Labor Management**

**A meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2009.**

## **G. Old Business**

**No comment.**

## **H. New Business**

### **Mayor' Fire Department Consolidation**

**Mr. Lindquist reported that after attending the recent Mayor's Citizen Forum on fire department consolidation, he believes that if there is way we could quarterly bill our residents, on the taxpayers' part, the consolidation issue would go away.**

### **Letter from Valley Falls**

**A bid was received from the Valley Falls Fire District, in the amount \$15, 000.00 for Truck 54 once the Pierce "PUC" is received in the spring. This letter will be added to the agenda for next month. A bid is expected from a fire truck broker.**

### **Lease Purchase Agreement**

**The lease purchase agreement was submitted to Chairman LeBlanc indicating the command vehicle has been paid in full. A Garmin GPS was purchased and programmed for the command vehicle.**

## **Union Grievances**

**Union Grievance 08-12 (Correspondence distributed and attached)**

**Mr. Lindquist, Chairman of the Personal Committee, reported the**

**Personnel Committee denied the grievance that was heard and reviewed on December 2, 2008. The Union Executive Committee requested that it be brought before the Board.**

**Union President Emerson explained the Union has filed and is pursuing a grievance that the Deputy Chief's official retirement was as of November 11. Once the deputy chief retired, there was a vacancy in that shift, which is outlined in the contract. The District is utilizing Kevin Dupe to fill that vacancy, who is a probationary fire fighter, not covered by the collective bargaining agreement, without any kind of agreement. The Union's position was to try to come up with an agreement that would allow Kevin Dube to be brought up to speed on the District operation prior to him being put in that position.**

**They were looking for a union member during the day to work anywhere from 3-6 weeks. When that didn't happen, a grievance was filed. They feel that past practice is not applicable in this situation. They believe it is spelled out in the contract. They are asking that the entire Board review the grievance, review the personnel committee's findings and make a ruling.**

**Article VIII, Section 2, Page 15 was referenced.**

**Mr. Lindquist explained that two of the three Personnel Committee members along with Chief Gendreau believe that the vacancy that occurred with the retirement of the Deputy Chief is a vacancy in the rank of Deputy Chief and not a vacancy in the Department. Therefore,**

it did not require additional union personnel to be brought in on overtime. The appointment of Kevin Dube and his assignment to Shift E for training brought the Department to full staffing. After reviewing the files from when Deputy Chief Pratt retired, the Personnel Committee believes past practices is applicable.

(Lt. Emerson left the room)

The initial response letter to the grievance by Chief Gendreau was read aloud by Personnel Committee Chairman, Paul Lindquist.

Page 16, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Minimum Manpower was reviewed.

Incoming Chief DeVecchio was asked to engage with the Union President to seek a solution under the last paragraph of Section 2 that speaks to having an agreement between the District and the Union. An agreement which outlines an objective level of training where the Chief, with the recommendation of the training officer, considers Pvt. Dube qualified.

**Deputy Chief Position**

**To be discussed in Executive Session.**

**I. Public Comment**

**No comment.**

**Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (1), 42-46-5 (2)**

**Motion was made by Mr. Audette, seconded by Mr. Lindquist and unanimously carried to enter into Executive Session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5 (1) and 42-46-5 (2) at 8:27 p.m.**

**Return to Public Meeting**

**Chairman LeBlanc announced the decision of the Board to delay selection of the Deputy Chief for at least one month.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. McCoy and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 9:08 p.m.**

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

**Approved by: Edward LeBlanc, Chairman**

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