

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2009

Present:

Edward LeBlanc, Chairman

John Aharonian

Brian Campbell

Matthew Gannon

John Patrick McCoy

Robert J. Murray

Paul Lindquist

Absent:

Robert Audette

Others Present:

David DeVecchio, Chief

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Martin Klara, Tax Collector

Dan Hamel, Treasurer

Opening:

The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) was called to order at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 by Chairman LeBlanc.

Before entering into the agenda, Chairman LeBlanc read a thank you letter dated January 16, 2009 from retired Chief Gendreau for the support and encouragement he received from the Board during his career as Chief of the North Cumberland Fire District. (attached).

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 17, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

Chairman LeBlanc noted for the record that the treasurer was absent from the December, 2008 meeting as well as the September and November, 2008 meetings and is not in attendance tonight.

A typographical correction was made on page 3 “Negotiations” inserting the word “plan” between retirement and proposal. On page

4, Union Grievances, Union Grievance 08-02, second paragraph, 4th line, Dupe was corrected to Dube.

Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2008 as corrected. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hamel was not in attendance this evening but had previously submitted his report via e-mail dated 21-Jan-09 to include:

- Financial Summary December 2008**
- Tax Collections December 31, 2008**
- Profit & Loss December 2008**
- Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison July through December 2008**
- Profit & Loss Budget Overview July through December 2008**
- Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2008**
- Cash Flow Forecast Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

Treasurer Hamel attempted to answer previously asked questions via e-mail (attached). Questions remain regarding the Contingency Fund and the truck deposit. Mr. Murray offered a possible explanation that the truck deposit came from Account 1022. A comparison was made of the balances (December 31, 07 vs. December 31, 08) of Account 1022 of the Balance Sheet.

Tax Collector Klara reported a discrepancy between what was actually collected and what the treasurer had reported.

Mr. Murray questioned the payroll account, referencing a comparison between December 07 and December 2008. Chairman LeBlanc offered a possible explanation that December 2008 may include the retirement of deputy chief Pratt and Chief Gendreau. This matter is to be clarified by Treasurer Hamel.

Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. McCoy, to accept the Treasurer's Report dated 21-Jan-09. All in favor. So voted.

C. Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector Klara submitted his report dated January 2009. He again noted the discrepancy in tax collections between him and the treasurer. An e-mail was sent to the treasurer after the December 2008 meeting to verify if refund checks were sent. To date, the tax collector has not received a response. Preparations are being made for the upcoming tax sale.

Motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. McCoy, to accept the Tax Collector's Report dated January 2009. All in favor. So voted.

D. Chief's Report/Monthly Expenditures

Prior to his retirement, Chief Gendreau submitted his monthly report for December 2008. Chief DeVecchio added the following items:

- A productive meeting with the officers of the District was held recently. Issues to be explored were discussed.
- Effective February 1, 2009, Lt. Mooney will be the new training officer.
- Gas Doctor invoices totaling \$2214. for service calls on the heating system of the building are to be challenged.
- Transmission and pump shaft problems with Engine 54.
- Expiring (2/9/09) eligibility list and new testing procedures for new hires were discussed at a recent Cumberland Chief's meeting.
- New open burning ordinance with a fine attached to be adopted in the Districts.
- Committees were formed to create standard operating procedures for all districts to follow when working together.

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Gannon, to accept the Chief's Report dated December 2008 with expenses as attached. All in favor. So voted.

E. Committee Reports:

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

No comment.

Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds

Mr. Aharonian reported several meetings of the truck committee. Fabrication drawings have been reviewed and returned to Pierce. It was noted that Chief DelVecchio has been attending all the meetings to familiarize himself with the project.

Personnel/Labor Management

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Negotiations

No comment.

Labor Management

Mr. Gannon reported a meeting was held January 19, 2009. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2009. Appreciation Day and longevity awards were discussed. An updated longevity award brochure was requested.

F. Old Business

Deputy Chief Position

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Union Grievance 08-12

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Anglo Irish Bank

Chief DelVecchico submitted a copy of an e-mailed letter from Anglo Irish Bank informing depositors that the bank has been nationalized. The letter was passed to Mr. Murray who noted that he had received the same letter.

G. New Business

Lt. Emerson – Treadmill

Lt. Emerson reported the treadmill has been received. The total cost of the treadmill is \$2100. While The District previously agreed to contribute \$1500. toward the cost of the treadmill, Lt. Emerson asked if there was any money in the budget to cover the entire cost.. Several members of the Union voiced the importance of physical fitness in their profession.

It was agreed that the Union will meet with Chief DelVecchio to review the budget of Account 6030 (Upgrading and Purchasing of New Equipment) to determine if there is flexibility in the line item to accommodate Lt. Emerson's request.

Lt. Emerson's request was tabled until the next meeting.

Countryside Signs

Lt. Emerson requested reimbursement for the cost (\$250.00) of the retirement gift purchased by the District for the Deputy Chief. Chairman LeBlanc requested a receipt.

Engine 54 Bid

Chief DelVecchio reported a letter was received from a fire truck refurbish/resale company stating they would be unable to bid on Engine 54 in the price range of \$20,000. Currently, the only bid NCFD has received is from Valley Falls Fire District for \$15,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Aharonian, to sell Engine 54 to Valley Falls Fire District for \$15,000. after the delivery of the new vehicle. All in favor. So voted.

District Credit Card

Chief DelVecchio reported NCFD had a credit card in Chief Gendreau's name as well as the District's. A transfer of names was not allowed therefore, the card was cancelled. The application process required personal information and liability to Chief DelVecchio. Alternative credit card and debit card guidelines were reviewed and discussed. It was decided a debit card/cards would be utilized.

Beacon Mutual

Chief DelVecchio presented a proposal from The Beacon Mutual Insurance Company to manage claims and assist NCFD in the implementation of a return to work policy. An informal contract was submitted to Chef DelVecchio estimating the cost at \$2800. per year based on the NCFD's claim history over the past five years.

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. McCoy that we

move forward with this on a one year trial basis. All in favor. So voted.

Pvt. Grenier – Sick Days

Pvt. Grenier asked that this be discussed in Executive Session with the Union President, Lt. Emerson, in attendance.

H. Public Comment

Chairman LeBlanc recognized Chief DeVecchio for an impressive first month of employment as the Chief of the North Cumberland Fire District. Actions include the finding of several potential discrepancies in the truck contract, initiating a resolution to claims management and return to work policy, and the resolve of Grievance 08-12.

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

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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 7:59 p.m.

Return to Public Meeting

Upon return to public hearing the following announcements were made:

- **Private Grenier's request to have 48 hours of sick time reinstated was denied.**
- **Lt. Emerson has declined the position of Deputy Chief.**

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Gannon that Lt. Mitchell be promoted to Deputy Chief effective February 1, 2009. All in favor. So voted.

Chief DeVecchio briefed the Board on Union Grievance 08-12. An agreement was made with the Executive Board, that in the interim of the deputy chief's position being appointed, effective February 1, 2009, the deputy chief's position would be filled on a daily basis with overtime personnel. This person's s primary responsibility would be to assist with the training of Pvt. Dube to qualify him to be moved into a line position. At that point, Pvt. Dube would be assigned to a shift to fill in the vacancy created by the promotion of Pvt. Mitchell. Grievance settled.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. McCoy and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc, Chairman
