

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2009

Present:

Edward LeBlanc, Chairman

John Aharonian

Brian Campbell

Matthew Gannon

John Patrick McCoy

Paul Lindquist

Absent:

Robert Audette

Robert J. Murray

Others Present:

David DeVecchio, Chief

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Martin Klara, Tax Collector

Opening:

The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) was called to order at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 by Chairman LeBlanc.

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. McCoy, to accept the minutes of the February 18, 2009 meeting as written. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Although interim treasurer Murray was not in attendance, he had previously e-mailed to all board members abbreviated January, February and year-to-date income statements.

Chairman LeBlanc reported he and Chief DelVecchio had met with the treasurer and reviewed the reports. The treasurer voiced concerns regarding spending vs. income. Chief DelVecchio noted that some expenses are paid in advance and the accelerated spending will not continue for the remaining 4 months of the fiscal year. Anticipated income from the sale of truck 54 (\$15,000.) and the reimbursement (\$6,200.) for the 800 megahertz radios will change the impression of his report.

It was the sense of the board that although the treasurer has introduced a new format that is easier to read, it may be deceiving to the public.

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Gannon, to accept the Treasurer's two page report. All in favor. So voted

C. Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector Klara submitted his report dated March 2009. In terms of taxes collected, Mr. Klara noted a \$5,670.00 discrepancy between him and the treasurer. The tax collector will work with the treasurer to reconcile this figure.

Working with attorney Baker to prepare for the upcoming tax sale has prevented

Mr. Klara from generating a secondary mailing to delinquent tax payers. He believes the revenue generated from the tax sale will offset the secondary mailing. The tax sale is scheduled to take place during the second week of June.

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Aharonian, to accept the Tax Collector's Report dated March 2009 with the item as noted for clarification and reconciliation on the amount collected. All in favor. So voted.

D. Chief's Report/Monthly Expenditures

Chief DelVecchio submitted his monthly report for February 2009 including expenses dated March 18, 2009. He highlighted the following:

- **Fire Marshal Garon assisted National Fire with the reprogramming of the "trouble alarms" for occupancies equipped with radio boxes.**
- **A Knox-Box ® is a locked steel box that is mounted usually to the outside of the building, somewhere near one of the entrances, where the business owners are able to put keys to the business to eliminate forced entry. Some boxes may contain several dozen keys. Firefighter Paquin along with other department members are checking the Knox-Boxes, identifying the keys and color coding the main ones for access to the front doors, the fire alarm panel key, the sprinkler system and any other master keys that it may contain.**

Expenses were distributed and reviewed this evening.

Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to accept the Chief's Report for February 2009 with expenses. All in favor. So voted.

E. Committee Reports:

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

According to the by-laws of the North Cumberland Fire District, the treasurer's position must be advertised. The Chairman will work with

the Chief to advertise the treasurer's position this month. The board will be asked to elect a treasurer at the next meeting.

Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds

Chief DeVecchio reported receiving drawings from the Pierce sales representative to finalize some issues that were discussed at their last meeting. The truck should be in the full production line in the next couple of weeks. Once it hits the line it should be six weeks to completion. The tentative date for delivery to Minuteman is May 18. A portion of the reimbursement for the old radios will be used to purchase radios for the new truck. These radios will be installed at Minuteman. The truck will arrive at NCFD shortly after that.

Personnel/Labor Management/ Negotiations

Paul Lindquist noted a grievance as well as the appreciation dinner will be discussed under Old Business.

Labor Management

The next meeting of the Labor Management Committee will be held April 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

F. Old Business

Recruit Eligibility List

Chief DeVecchio reported working on finalizing components of the recruit eligibility list and will sit down with the personnel board to

review and ok the final parameters. He has discussed it with the Union briefly and will engage them during the finalization. He is hoping to have the testing process implemented and a list established within the next couple of months.

Appreciation Dinner

Paul Lindquist contacted Culinary Affair and has reserved the date of April 26, 2009. An e-mail was sent to the treasurer requesting a check in the amount of \$400.00 to reserve the date. Dessert and soft drinks are not covered in the proposal. Chairman LeBlanc offered to pick up desserts and Mr. Lindquist offered to pick up soft drinks. A count is required one week prior to the event. Lt. Emerson has reserved the United Methodist Church hall.

VFIS Claim Denial

Documentation is being prepared by Chief DeVecchio to pursue the reimbursement of that particular claim.

Grievance 09-01

Gary Grenier agreed to have his grievance discussed in open session. Union President Bernando explained:

- Gary was injured February 2008.
- On May 14 he received a note from his doctor and turned it into Chief Gendreau clearing him to return to work on June 1.
- At the following board meeting, which was 2 weeks after Gary submitted the note, the board decided to decline the note and send

him for a fit for duty physical which was scheduled on June 6.

- The Union felt that the period between when Gary handed Chief Gendreau the note and the actual board meeting, where his note was declined, was an extensive period of time. Gary had cancelled his TDI, he was out of sick time and not receiving a check from NCFD.
- The Union filed a grievance based on sick time (48 hours), feeling that it would be more prudent for the district instead of issuing him a week's pay.
- After following the appropriate steps and meeting with the personnel committee, the Union would like to see the board issue 48 hours of sick time. However, if the board could meet them half way and issue 24 hours, that would be appreciated.

Paul Lindquist, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, asked that the Union's request be discussed in executive session.

G. New Business

IAFC Conference

Chief DeVecchio reported starting preparations for registering him and Deputy Chief Mitchell to attend the International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference, August 25 through August 29 in Dallas, Texas. Expenses include, registration, \$395.00 per person, airfare, \$200.-\$300. round trip per person and accommodations, \$149. per night to be shared.

Coverage was discussed.

Station Project

Chief DelVecchio explained that the stimulus package that is being disbursed throughout the country has a section that is earmarked specifically for fire station construction and renovation. He believes these funds will be disbursed through a grant or competitive application process.

With an eye on the future and given the number of issues with the current station, Chief DelVecchio met with John Aharonian to discuss the District's options.

- 1. Renovate the existing station.**
- 2. Allocating a new site location. With considering response times, several locations have been looked at and include the Schofield property on Nate Whipple Highway, the Langelier property on Nate Whipple Highway and the corner of Diamond Hill Road and Reservoir Road.**

Noting that this is strictly in the planning process and that the Chief is simply looking at options, Chairman LeBlanc explained that even if stimulus funds are not available, we need to set the foundation for the future.

VFIS Policy Renewal

Chef DelVecchio reported VFIS accident and sickness policy is up for

renewal. The policy's premium is \$28,820., no increase from last year.

Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Lindquist and unanimously carried to continue with VFIS at their current policy.

H. Public Comment

After reviewing interim treasurer Murray's Year-to-Date February 2009 report, Brian Bernando requested a copy of the Chief Gendreau's pay out and vacation time.

Paul Lindquist expressed his pride in the Department personnel after viewing first hand two separate incidents, one being on Alaska Drive.

Chief DelVecchio announced two live burn trainings have been scheduled, April 4 and May 30, one at the Union Fire District and one at the Barnstable Fire Training Academy.

Marty Klara questioned 6110 National Grid (\$5,500) on the Chief's expense report. Chief DelVecchio explained that an error in billing had occurred when National Grid reassessed commercial occupancies last August but had not corrected the billing until March.

Executive Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (1), 42-46-5 (2)

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Gannon and unanimously carried to enter into Executive Session in accordance with R.I.G.L.42-46-5 (1) and 42-46-5 (2) at 7:52 p.m.

Return to Public Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. McCoy and unanimously carried to keep the Executive Session minutes sealed.

Grievance 09-01

A vote was taken to either deny or to grant Grievance 09-01.

Mr. McCoy deny

Mr. Campbell deny

Mr. Aharonian deny

Mr. Gannon deny

Mr. Lindquist deny

Chairman LeBlanc deny

Grievance 09-01 is denied.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Aharonian and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc, Chairman
