

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2009

Present:

Edward LeBlanc, Chairman

John Aharonian

Robert Audette

Brian Campbell

Paul Lindquist

John Patrick McCoy

Robert J. Murray (also serving as interim treasurer)

Absent:

Matthew Gannon

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, April 22, 2009 by Chairman LeBlanc.

Chairman LeBlanc asked the Board to keep the Gannon Family in their thoughts and prayers with the passing of Matthew Gannon's son, Michael Gannon.

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting with a few minor grammar changes. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Interim treasurer Murray submitted his report which included:

- Month of March income statement versus budget**
- Year to date income statement versus budget**
- Year to date income statement versus remaining annual budget**

Mr. Murray explained and reviewed each report with the Board noting red on the expense side is positive.

Month of March

Revenue side:

Behind by \$6,500. for several reasons. Lower interest rates than projected. Interest from certificates of deposit not included but will be recorded once they expire.

Expense side:

Upgrading and purchasing of new equipment is mostly related to coats, pants and 100 foot hose for nearly \$6,000. Heat, National Grid was up brought up to date from an estimated bill to an actual. Building supplies repairs and improvements, the Gas Doctor had done significant work on the building. Monthly pension payments now at 21.45% of salary, budgeted at 12%, an additional cost of \$5,000. per month that we will be incurring from now until the end of the fiscal year and continuing into the calendar year. Insurance way down as a timing issue, it was actually paid in February. Truck lease payment began in December or January to get a better rate, budget was written to start paying in May.

March YTD

Revenue side:

Slower than expected collections and lower market interest rates.

Revenue is down about \$22,000. through March.

Expense side:

Truck repairs, up, offset by lower purchases in account 6030, we are up about \$7,000. Payroll, \$75,000. above budget partially due to the payout of retirees (Chief and Deputy Chief) in January of this year.

Pension, jump in rate from 12 – 21.45%

Blue Cross, additional payroll, vacation payouts and additional employer expenses.

Insurance, timing in receipt of bills vs. placement of budget. Truck Lease, payments began in December or January to get a better rate, budget was written to start paying in May.

Remaining Spend

This report outlines the year to date actual cost incurred, compared to the entire year's budget, revealing what's left to spend in any particular account.

The Board requested a full balance sheet to be included in future treasurer's reports.

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Treasurer's report for March, 2009. All in favor. So voted

C. Tax Collector's Report

Tax collector Klara submitted his report dated April, 2009. The

discrepancy in taxes collected in February between he and the treasurer's last month's reports have not been resolved. They will work together to reconcile the amount. Commingled deposited funds may be the problem.

Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Tax Collector's Report dated April 2009. All in favor. So voted.

D. Chief's Report/Monthly Expenditures

Chief DeVecchio submitted his monthly report for March 2009, including expenses dated April 22, 2009. He highlighted the following:

- **Decrease in total number of runs compared to last year at this time. Decrease attributed to the tightening up of false alarms on some of the systems in and out of the districts.**
- **A number of compliments to the crew (Captain Delisle, firefighter O'Neill and firefighter Paquin) that responded to a structure fire at 11 North Attleboro Road were received.**
- **Cumberland Teachers Association sent a thank you letter for Gary Grenier who participated in their Read Across America celebration at Community School.**
- **Captain Delisle, firefighter Paquin and firefighter Garon participated in the Cumberland Youth Baseball League's clinic held at McCourt Middle School to speak on the subject of basic first aid procedures**

and safety issues in regards to what the coaches may encounter. A thank you note was received.

- Several walk throughs and pre-plan updates performed. Private Bernardo is updating pre-plans on the trucks' computer system in conjunction with company level training.
- Lt. Mooney attended a meeting of the Blackstone River Area Rescue Committee. The Committee is rebuilding the swift water, flood water and water rescue response capabilities and dive team responsibilities in the area.
- Private Dube is contacting and compiling information from personal watercraft manufacturers. Some companies have programs available where they donate the unit to the emergency response agency on a yearly basis at no cost to the district, other than maintenance.

Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. McCoy, to accept the Chief's Report for March 2009 including expenditures. All in favor. So voted.

E. Committee Reports:

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

Tax collector Klara has worked with attorney Baker to rectify the number of accounts listed on a recent invoice in preparation for the tax sale. An updated invoice was requested by interim treasurer Murray before payment will be sent.

A Payment Installment Agreement, proposed by attorney Baker, Ed LeBlanc and Martin Klara, to avoid tax sale was distributed (copy attached). This agreement allows 15% down, payment each month, for six months in the amount required to bring the account up to date. If defaulted upon, no further consideration will be made.

Mr. Murray suggested beginning the budgetary process mid May.

Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds

Chief DeVecchio reported the truck entered the assembly line on April 17. Delivery is expected in 6 to 7 weeks. Photos were distributed (attached).

Personnel/Labor Management/ Negotiations

Appreciation Dinner to be held Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Labor Management

Mr. Aharonian reported a meeting was held last Monday. The committee is appreciative to the Board for the appreciation dinner.

F. Old Business

Grievance 09-01

Reported by Mr. Lindquist, as resolved.

Station Project

Chief DelVecchio stated, although the AMG grant application period is open, the station portion/guidelines have not been released.

IAFC Conference

Reservations have been made for Chief DelVecchio and Deputy Chief Mitchell to attend the IAFC Conference.

G. New Business

Grievances

Joseph A. Andriole of the Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters and fire fighter Clarke were present. They requested to be heard in Executive Session.

Treasurer Position

Chairman LeBlanc stated, according to the bi-laws, the treasurer position was advertised. The Personnel Committee will meet (tentatively scheduled for May 5, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.) to review the fourteen application received.

Sick Bank

The Personnel Committee, Chief DelVecchio and Brian Bernardo will work together to have a sick bank policy for the Board to review at the next meeting.

H. Public Comment

Brian Bernardo reminded the Board that he had requested a copy of Chief Gendreau's pay out and vacation time at the last meeting. Chairman LeBlanc noted his request.

Gary Grenier made the Board aware that Chairman LeBlanc made a comment to him that there were consequences for decisions that he made, specifically, that of refusing to release his medical records at the request of Mr. Baglini. Mr. Grenier stated his refusal to do that was based on what his union told him to do and based on his federal rights under HIPPA.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Audette 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 7:46 p.m.

Return to Public Meeting

Chairman LeBlanc reported that during Executive Session the Board discussed grievances 09-02, 09-03 and Mr. Andriole's presentation tonight. A vote was taken to either accept or deny the grievances. A

roll call was made.

Edward LeBlanc, Chairman Deny

John Aharonian Deny

Robert Audette Deny

Brian Campbell Deny

Paul Lindquist Deny

John Patrick McCoy Deny

Robert J. Murray Deny

Mr. Andriole stated they will get the arbitration demands out to the Chair.

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

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Campbell 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 8:14 p.m.

Return to Public Meeting

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Audette and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc, Chairman
