

# **North Cumberland Fire District**

## **Annual Meeting Minutes**

**June 17, 2009**

### **Opening:**

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

**Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Edward LeBlanc.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was executed.**

### **A. Election of Moderator**

**Motion was made by Mr. Spaziani, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to elect Edward LeBlanc as moderator. All in favor. So voted.**

### **B. Roll Call**

**John Aharonian Present**

**Robert Audette Present**

**Brian Campbell Present**

**Mathew Gannon Present**

**Paul Lindquist Present**

**John Patrick McCoy Present**

**Michael Spaziani Present**

### **C. Due Proof of Notice of Annual Meeting**

**Copies of notices (attached) that had been placed in the Valley Breeze and the Woonsocket Call, June 4 and 11, 2009 were presented.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. McCoy, to accept due proof of notice of the annual meeting. All in favor. So voted.**

#### **D. Swearing in of New Officers**

**The swearing in of new officers was administered by Chairman LeBlanc followed by a brief biography of each officer, read by Chief DeVecchio.**

**Kevin Dube appointed to the position Fire Fighter, November 12, 2008**

**Gary Grenier appointed to the position of Fire Fighter, March 20, 2006**

**Fire Fighter Mark Paquin joined the North Cumberland Fire District on July 1, 2004 as a full time member; promoted to Lieutenant May 31, 2009**

**Deputy Chief Fred Mitchell joined the North Cumberland Department full-time in October, 1988; promoted to Lieutenant, July1, 2005 and promoted to Deputy Chief on February 1, 2009.**

#### **E. Minutes of June 18, 2008 Annual Meeting**

**A motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Gannon to accept the Clerk's Report for the Annual Meeting of June 18, 2008. All in favor. So voted.**

## **F. Communications/Reports**

### **Chairman of Board of Trustees**

**Chairman LeBlanc welcomed all those in attendance, in particular Chief Jackvony and retired Chief Gendreau. Attention was called to:**

- New Fire Chief David DeVecchio**
- 1,370 calls in 2008, up from 1,303 in 2007.**
- Major personnel changes to include Chief DeVecchio, Deputy Chief Mitchell, Lt. Mark Paquin, fire fighters Grenier and Dube and treasurer, Bob Murray.**
- Change in Union Officers to include President Brian Bernardo**
- New Labor contract extending through 2011**
- Fire fighters contributing to health insurance**
- Fire truck purchased, financing explained.**
- NCFD in good fiscal health**
- Lowest tax rate in town**
- Plan for capital expenditures**
- Spending cuts, increase revenue through grants, a new fee structure through inspections and assertive tax collection.**
- Team work continues with the other fire districts in town**
- Community involvement**
- Fire fighter's appreciation dinner**

- **Dedication of Board of Trustees**
- **Challenge of containing costs, addressing 9% increase in health insurance and \$85,000. fire hydrant fee from Town of Cumberland**
- **Long term capital improvement plan**

### **Treasurer's Report**

**The Treasurer's Report (attached) dated June 17, 2008 was available to attendees and reviewed aloud by Treasurer Murray. Treasurer Murray reported a budget of tax collection revenue of 1.7 million dollars, \$17,000. higher than the prior year. The tax rate will increase from \$1.26 in the current year to \$1.33 for the forthcoming year, a 5.7% increase in the per thousand rate.**

### **Primary increases on the expense side:**

**Per contractual agreement, a 4% increase in the payroll this coming year as well as an increase in Blue Cross.**

**The largest increase over the prior year is the pension at \$68,000. The state pension plan, which is mandated by the state, has increased to 24.5% for the calendar year 2009.**

**In total, \$140,000 of increases over the prior year. To offset the increase, a master 10% decline in all other expenses was implemented. Overall, the taxes collected have increased. The actual assessed value of all the homes went up 42 million dollars for this coming year. To obtain a balanced budget, income was increased by**

**\$88,000 overall and net increases of \$88,000 on the expense side.**

**The cost of the truck lease contained in the budget (\$12,000.) was explained as the interest component of the payments for the forthcoming year. On a yearly basis, \$75,000. will be paid (\$12,000. in interest and the remaining \$63,000. in principal). The \$63,000. not listed in the budget, will come out of any excess cash currently in the District.**

### **Tax Collector's Report**

**Tax Collector Klara reported the accessed taxes for 2008-2009 as \$1, 578,624.39. Tax collections to date, including back taxes due, totals \$1,623,835.71. A tax sale will be held at the end of the month which should bring in additional revenue of about \$55,000 in back taxes.**

**Mr. William Dennen inquired about the truck lease and was informed it was a 5 year lease with a \$1.00 purchase option at the end of the 5 years.**

### **Fire Chief's Report**

**Chief DeVecchio thanked recently retired Chief Gendreau for preparing the annual fire chief's report for the calendar year 2008. Copies were available (attached). Chief DeVecchio highlighted the following key issues:**

- **Slight increase in run totals over the last year**
  - **Personnel performed over 1100 hours of training over the course of the year**
  - **Fire Marshals conducted 102 smoke detector inspections, 54 new construction inspections and construction plan reviews.**
  - **Development of a Department Association Committee to work on standard operating guidelines for the members of the department.**
  - **Town-wide committee to work on town-wide operational procedures and guidelines.**
  - **All districts involved in a joint, live fire training twice so far this year**
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- **Alternative funding. Joint town-wide grant applications filed for: 1. Computer aided dispatch software and administrative software to maintain personnel records, expenses, vacation time, sick time, as well as, other areas associated with that.**
  - 2. **Live fire simulated trainer for public education.**
- **Development of formalized training and professional development**
  - **Strengthening the relationships with the other districts.**
  - **The development of a comprehensive plan for the District to look at future growth.**

## **G. Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Annual Budget**

**Chairman LeBlanc noted that the budget as presented this evening does result in a tax rate of \$1.33 per thousand. Chairman/Moderator LeBlanc read aloud each line item of the proposed budget (attached) asking that questions be held until the end.**

**Questions were raised on the following items:**

**(6370) F/F Training Tuition Riemb – B \$ 0.00**

**Chairman LeBlanc explained to Brian Bernardo that although contractual, it must be claimed. After reviewing the history of that line item it was found that the firefighters do not use all that they could. If they did, contractual obligation will be met, and a deficit would be created on that particular line item.**

**(8500) Truck Lease \$18,000.**

**Treasurer Murray explained to Mr. William Dennen that the interest payments are imbedded within the budget itself. There is another \$63,000. in principal payments which were made in the forthcoming year. That cash will come from excess cash currently on hand generated primarily by fees, past due fees that are being collected or excess cash we currently in our balance sheet.**

**Mr. Dennen asked, if it is being paid, shouldn't it be in the budget? Treasurer Murray noted this is strictly a profit and loss statement with**

**income and revenue. Principal payments are somewhat outside the scope of this particular schedule.**

**A cash flow statement would list the principal payment as a line item. Cash Flow statements are provided monthly at each meeting. Mr. Dennen was invited to attend.**

**Mr. Lou Defusco questioned the pension increase. Chairman LeBlanc explained the pension increase is really a function of the state pension plan which we have no control over. It increased from 12% to 24.5% currently.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Audette, seconded by Mr. McCoy to approve the budget as proposed for 2009/2010. All in favor. So voted.**

#### **H. Election of Trustees**

**A motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to elect Mr. Matthew Gannon and Mr. John McCoy to the Board of Trustees. All in favor. So moved.**

#### **I. Old Business**

**Department Apparatus**

**No questions were raised.**

#### **J. New Business**

**None.**

**K. Public Comment**

**None.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion is made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Spaziani, to adjourn the meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District at 7:55 p.m. All in favor. So voted.**

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

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

**Chairman**