

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2009

Present:

Edward LeBlanc, Chairman

Robert Audette

Brian Campbell

Matthew Gannon

Paul Lindquist

John Patrick McCoy

Michael Spaziani

Absent:

John Aharonian

David DeVecchio, Chief

Others Present:

Fred Mitchell, Jr., Deputy Chief

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Martin Klara, Tax Collector

Robert J. Murray, Treasurer

Opening:

The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) was called to order at 7:05 pm on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 by Chairman LeBlanc.

Chairman LeBlanc noted he would be skipping around on the agenda this evening. He began the meeting by welcoming back Matt Gannon.

On a personal note, Mr. Gannon thanked everyone on behalf of his wife and two daughters for the support they received during a difficult time.

Appointment of New Treasurer

Personnel Committee Chairman, Paul Lindquist briefed the Board on the criteria used to choose and recommend a treasurer. He announced the personnel committee came to a unanimous decision to recommend Robert Murray as the treasurer effective January 1, 2009. A letter was received by Chairman LeBlanc from Mr. Murray stating that should he be appointed treasurer, effective immediately, he would resign from the Board of Trustees.

Motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to appoint Mr. Murray as our new treasurer, depending upon his resignation from the Board. All in favor. So voted.

Mr. Murray's resignation from the Board of Trustees, offered to the Chairman in an e-mail dated Monday, May 11, 2009, was accepted.

Appointment of Board Member

Michael Spaziani, who had sent a letter of interest during a recent advertisement for a board of trustee position, was present this evening and addressed the board highlighting his 15 years experience of involvement in fire service, including a bachelor's degree in Fire Science. He is currently working for FM Global as manager of the fire service programs. He lives in the district, on Bear Hill Road. He is a call fire fighter and should the board appoint him as a trustee to fill the remainder of Mr. Murray's term, he would resign as a call firefighter.

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist to elect Mike Spaziani as a member to the Board, seconded by Mr. McCoy subject to the caveat that the Chairman has placed on him. All in favor. So voted.

Michael Spaziani stated that he will resign from the call force effective immediately and will document his resignation in a letter to Chief DeVecchio this week. Mr. Spaziani joined the Board of Trustees around the table.

Water Rescue

Chairman LeBlanc recognized Chris Smith, Lt. Emerson, and fire fighter Foisey who participated in a recent water rescue. As an excellent representative from the District, Chris Smith was seen on television.

A. Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Audette subject to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2009 meeting as written. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Murray submitted his report which included:

- Month of April income statement versus budget**
- April YTD income statement versus budget**
- April YTD income statement versus remaining annual budget**
- Balance Sheet**

Mr. Murray reviewed each report with the Board. His comments

included:

Income Statement for the Month of April

Revenue side:

Taxes Collected - actual exceeds the budget due to timing of receipts, overall in the YTD budget to actual, we are a little behind.

Interest –Interest rates are way down. Certificates of deposit recently terminated at Anglo Irish Bank, which was paying 3-4%, was moved to Citizens.

Incident Response Fees - \$683.00 not budgeted for this year

Total Income for the month –Actual \$35,101.00 vs Budget \$23,866.00

Expense side:

In total \$188,000. vs. \$135,000. Unusual circumstances noted in the comments section. first aid equipment from Moore Medical, Heat and Water National Grid payment of two quarterly bills. Pete's Lawn Service for snow plowing (seems high), Mr. Murray questioned if this service was bid out. He would like to discuss bidding out certain items during budget planning. Payroll, a five week payroll month. Pension at \$14,000. now paying 21.45% on the pension match, budgeted at 12%. Blue Cross/Major Medical, 5 periods vs. 4 in the budget. Insurance, \$20,820. a timing issue where we had budgeted a different time period from when it is actually being paid. Truck Lease not budgeted until May or June.

Total for the month, net ordinary loss of \$152,000. vs. a plan of

\$111,000.

April YTD

Revenue side:

Taxes collected, a little behind by \$50,000. Rhode Island Excise Tax, received \$27,000. more than what was budgeted at this point, but will even out when the budget kicks in May.

Expense side:

Very similar to what they have been in the past. Payroll over due to paying retirement benefits back in January. Pension is over, due to the increase to 21.45%.

Remaining Spend/Collect

Revenue side:

\$70,000. remaining to collect for the year. Legal fees in the amount of \$18,000. not anticipated in the budgetary process were collected. To meet the budget for the year, \$61,000. remains to be collected

Expense side:

Total spent, 1.6 million. Budget was 1, 774,000. \$160,000. yet to spend. If the number is in black, we have that to spend over the next 60 days. The red means we have over spent at this period in time.

Balance Sheet

On a net basis we are down just about \$100,000.

On the liability side: \$47,000 in current liabilities, in addition, the new Pierce truck.

Overall in a decent position as it relates to cash. Some cd's maturing over the next 60 days which will be uses for operations.

Loan Payable – Contingency Fund \$348,000. That money will start to deplete in the May- June time period, depending on how much is received in past tax sales. If the \$70,000. budget shortfall we currently have on the revenue side is met, it should remain.

Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the treasurer's report for April, 2009. All in favor. So voted

C. Tax Collector's Report

Tax collector Klara submitted his report dated May, 2009. Mr. Klara reported a total deposited in the amount of \$32,000., attributing half to the upcoming tax sale. He anticipates a comparable amount of money coming in this month. A bounced check (1,208.42) is to be re-deposited. The tax sale is scheduled for June.

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

D. Chief's Report/Monthly Expenditures

Although Chief DeVecchio was not in attendance he had previously submitted his monthly report for April 2009, including expenses dated May 20, 2009. In his absence, Deputy Chief Mitchell explained and highlighted the following:

- PlymoVent System is a system connected to the apparatus to capture the exhaust emissions to eliminate diesel being trapped in the building.**
- One Year Service Contract and Upgrade for Fire Program -\$1065.00
This program is used for reports, shift reports, and training.**
- Fire watch detail at North Cumberland Middle School. Per the fire code.**
- Live fire fighting training at the union district facility. Chief of the union fire district, Bob Perry, Chief Lloyd and an instructor from Tiverton was impressed with NCFD. Their critique had nothing but good things to say, regarding how the department conducted themselves and how they operated in the evolutions.**

Motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Chief's report with expenses for April 2009. All in favor. So voted.

E. Committee Reports:

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

Treasurer Murray voiced the need to formalize a new committee to meet the first week of June to begin crafting the budget.

Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds

Chairman LeBlanc reported Mr. Aharonian and Chief DeVecchio are in Wisconsin to look over the new truck.

Landscaping was done by Chris Smith, Kyle, Paul Foisey and Chris Baker. Deputy Chief Mitchell plans to meet with the parade committee and especially the road race committee regarding the condition of the property after last year's events.

Chairman LeBlanc spoke to Mr. Johnson and he has not forgotten he is under obligation to install a fence.

Personnel/Labor Management/ Negotiations

Mr. Lindquist thanked the Appreciation Dinner set-up and clean-up crews.

Six candidates are currently going through the process for the lieutenant's position. The orals are scheduled for next Wednesday starting at 4:00 p.m.

Labor Management

Mr. Gannon reported a tentative date of August 7, 2009 for the next meeting of the Labor Management Committee.

F. Old Business

Sick Leave Donation Policy

Deputy Chief Mitchell distributed a letter from Union President, Brian Bernado, explaining why they feel a “sick bank” policy would not be feasible for NCFD. A drafted alternative department policy was presented.

Brian Bernando will work with the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Paul Lindquist.

Chairman LeBlanc asked that if there were any comments on this proposed policy, to contact Mr. Lindquist who will engage Chief DeVecchio.

Fire Prevention Grant Submission

Deputy Chief Mitchell explained fire fighter Grenier had applied for a federal grant through the Fire Fighter Assistance Program for a fire prevention trailer valued at \$80,000. This trailer is beneficial for public educational purposes as well as department training.

Station Project

In anticipation and hopes of stimulus dollars, Deputy Chief Mitchell, Chief DeVecchio and Captain Delisle, who are in charge of buildings and grounds, met with John Aharonian to discuss remodeling, expanding and redesigning the existing station as well as the construction of a new station/location. A document was presented to the Chairman outlining the current station, a new station concept

and the issues to overcome. Deputy Chief Mitchell briefed the board on its contents.

Chairman LeBlanc would like to know the value of the current station/property and how that figure is determined.

Grievance/Arbitration

Chairman LeBlanc announced the Union filed for arbitration after denial of grievances 09-02 and 09-03 regarding fire fighter Clarke. An arbitrator has been identified for grievance 09-03. Chairman LeBlanc has engaged with AI West to consider the arbitrator selected by the association and the dates selected beginning in July. Chairman LeBlanc noted that the board had asked that the arbitration be combined and that both grievances be heard by the same arbitrator at the same arbitration hearing, but the union declined.

G. New Business

Plan Review Fees

At the request of Chief DeVecchio, Fire Marshal Garon took a look at the Department's Plan and Review Fees. Deputy Chief Mitchell and Fire Marshal Garon distributed and explained the proposed changes

in the plan review fees. The proposed fees are updated to be in accordance with the state fire code. With the board's blessing tonight the copy will be forwarded to the Board of Appeal and Review.

Motion was made by Mr. Audette, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adopt the fee schedule as submitted to the board by the Deputy. All in favor. So voted.

Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Deputy Chief Mitchell explained two grants were submitted through the Assistance for Firefighters' Aid (AFG grants).

Chief DeVecchico submitted a grant for MCI program for all the Districts. If the full grant was obtained, this program would put all districts in town under one fire department number and would be compatible with the police department.

A Wellness and Fitness Grant was applied for, calculated at \$45,000. This grant includes equipment, an immunization program, initial and annual physicals and additional exercise equipment. Chief DeVecchico received a quote from a personal certified trainer to provide a 12 week monitoring program to include, the measurement of body fat, nutrition and programs to meet individual needs.

H. Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Audette, seconded by Mr. Campbell and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc, Chairman
