

**North Cumberland Fire District**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 14, 2010**

**Present:**

**Edward LeBlanc, Chairman**

**John Aharonian**

**Robert Audette**

**Brian Campbell**

**Matthew Gannon**

**Paul Lindquist**

**Michael Spaziani**

**Absent:**

**John Patrick McCoy**

**Others Present:**

**David DelVecchio, 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 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 by Chairman LeBlanc.**

**A. Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Spaziani, to accept the Clerk's Report for March 17, 2010. All in favor. So voted.**

**B. Treasurer's Report**

**Treasurer Murray submitted his report and highlighted the following:**

**• Month of March P & L**

**Revenue Side**

**o Taxes collected \$36,434 just over budget of \$30,000. 97% towards revenue goal for the year**

**o Various fees - \$1,140. vs. budget of \$1,000. for service collection**

## **fees**

**o Total Revenue - \$36,629. vs. budget of \$ 31,050. Ahead of budget for the month by approximately \$6,500.**

### **Expense Side**

**o 6000 Gas Diesel, and Oil - \$3007. Increase, flood related.**

**o 6480 Professional Fees- \$5312. – Payment to St. Peter and Kastle for attorney fees associated with Kevin Clarke.**

**o Expenses total \$129,000. Loss of \$91,477. for the month vs. a budget \$97,615. Ahead \$6,137.99 for the month of March.**

## **• March Year to Date**

**Compares the March actuals to the overall budget. Items marked in red if over budget, yellow if cautionary.**

### **Revenue Side**

**Year to date revenue \$1,777,000., 5% away from the budget for the year.**

### **Expense Side**

**Three months remaining in the fiscal year and 30.6% remaining in budget.**

## **• Balance Sheet**

**o Cash at the end of the month \$669,000. with a reduction for the prior month due primarily to the loss for the month of March**

- o Taxes receivable \$257,741. for current year and all prior years.
- o Accrued liabilities of \$26,000. on par with most of the prior months
- o Total Assets \$2,371,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Audette seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to accept the Treasurer's Report for March, 2010. All in favor. So voted.

### **C. Tax Collector's Report**

Tax Collector Klara submitted his report dated April, 2010.

Motion was made by Mr. Spaziani, seconded by Mr. Aharonian, to accept the Tax Collector's Report dated April, 2010. All in favor. So voted.

### **D. Chief's Report/Monthly Expenditures**

Chief DeVecchio presented his monthly report and expenses for March, 2010 which also included Flood Related Response Statistics (March 12 – March 31 only).

321 incidents were reported for the month of March, well above any previous months as a result of the flood

A review of the Flood Related Response Statistics revealed:

- Two storms in March
  - o March 12 - 13 – a few runs between 3/14 and 3/24
  - o March 29 – Dramatic increase in runs 3/29-3/31 into April which are

**not included in this report**

**o Total of 223 water related incidents for the month of March**

- Additional overtime costs and personnel cost associated with the storm**
- Storm related purchases.**
- 287 gallons of fuel earmarked as storm related**
- Most cost will be submitted to FEMA for possible reimbursement**
- Continuing to document incidents**

**Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Chief's report with expenses for March, 2010. All in favor. So voted.**

#### **E. Committee Reports:**

**Financial Management, Budget, Taxes**

**Treasurer Murray, John McCoy and Chief DeVecchio will meet to develop a budget for next year.**

**Chairman LeBlanc noted in the state's recent budget, the House voted to fund vehicle reimbursements at 88%. This possible reduction could result in a \$13,000. loss in the next payment due to NCFD in May.**

**Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds**

**Pump inventory has increases as a result of the recent flooding.**

## **Personnel/Labor Management/ Negotiations**

**No comment**

### **F. Old Business**

#### **Appreciation Dinner**

**Due to the availability of the Public Safety Union Hall, the date of the appreciation dinner has changed to Sunday, May 2, 2010, 6:30 p.m. (dinner at 7:00pm) Please RSVP to either Paul Lindquist or Chief DeVecchio by April 27.**

#### **Chris Smith Seminar**

**Chris Smith, the training officer for the department, has arranged for Michel Terpak, the Deputy Chief of the Jersey City Fire Department, to conduct an eight hour seminar on Friday, May 14, 2010 at the Public Safety Union Hall. Testimonials of the "Fire Ground Size-Up" program were distributed.**

**Chris Smith would like for career and volunteer members of NCFD to be given the opportunity to attend this seminar. The cost of the seminar is \$60.00 per person or \$1,500. total if the entire Department did attend. Chief DeVecchio would encourage members of the Department to attend.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Gannon, to provide the monies necessary for North Cumberland Fire District personnel to attend the seminar up to \$1,500. All in favor. So voted.**

## **G. New Business**

### **Plan Reviews with Taxes Owed**

**It was decided that clearance is needed from the Tax Collector before plan reviews and such are released.**

### **Union Grievance 10-01**

**Union President Brian Bernardo stated the Union will be filing for arbitration.**

### **Storm Response**

**On behalf of the Board, Chairman LeBlanc expressed his appreciation to the Chief and the entire Department for the incredible work they did during the recent storms and flooding.**

**In response to an article in the Valley Breeze, Chief DeVecchio submitted a Hannah Drive Timeline. Chief DeVecchio noted during the course of the storm, NCFD personnel were back to Hannah Drive multiple times that are not recorded in the timeline with an official run number. Not only were the houses flooded, the street was under two feet of water. Assessments that included, whether residents had their own pumps, were they elderly and alone, did they have special needs or medical conditions were done. The assessments were categorized as priority 1, 2 & 3, priority 1 being the most severe. Pumps were allocated based on priority. Some priority 3's waited until the**

**weekend before they got a pump. Fourteen pumps were constantly in use .A trash pump was used to pump the street. Most of the residents had their own pumps working. Overall the members of the Department did everything they could to get to everyone. One individual was skipped over in the translation of the original phone calls to the priority list.**

**Education of the residents seems to be key. Most people are unaware that the fire department is there to help them bridge to a point where they can fend for themselves not to pump their basement dry.**

**Chief DeVecchio's analysis of the situation included the inability to track a large number of incidents. Phone calls came direct to the department as well as through the dispatch center, creating a challenge in accurately tracking each incident. Although the dispatch center did an excellent job with the amount of calls and the personnel they have, he sees a shortfall in public safety for the town as a whole in the dispatch center.**

### **17 Louise Luther Drive**

**Water flowing from North Attleboro had placed the yard and driveway of 17 Louise Luther Drive underwater. With no place to pump the water a request was made to EMA through the Town. Eventually a pump was obtained and delivered from Sharon, Massachusetts through EMA. Complaints were made as to where the water was flowing. With many issues and few solutions the situation has not yet**

**been rectified.**

## **Consolidation**

**Although not on the agenda, for informational purposes, Chairman LeBlanc announced that he and Chief DeVecchio, the Chairmen and Chiefs of the other Districts and the Chief of Police had attended a meeting with the Mayor. The Mayor asked the group if they were open to looking at consolidation. Everyone more or less said yes and that they would keep an open mind. NCFD will be visited on Monday by an individual hired by the Mayor to look at NCFD in order to develop a proposal on how two or more of the districts might merge.**

## **Mr. Cook**

**Mr. John Cook is being processed through the criminal justice system for cutting a fire house.**

**Chief DeVecchio reported a summons was delivered to the station today. The summons is in regard to action that may or may not have occurred on Reservoir Road. Mr. Cook alleges that a member of NCFD personnel had made an opening in a berm on his property, to allow the water to flow onto his property. Jeff Kastle, Esq. has been notified.**

## **H. Public Comment**

**No comment.**

**Executive Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-4 and 42-46-5**

**Motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Spaziani and unanimously carried to enter into Executive Session in accordance with R.I.G.L.42-46-4 and 42-46-5 at 8:04 p.m.**

**Return to Public Meeting**

**No votes were taken or decisions made in Executive Session.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Audette and unanimously carried to keep the Executive Session minutes closed.**

**Adjournment**

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

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

**Approved                      by: Edward                      LeBlanc,                      Chairman**

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