

**North Cumberland Fire District
Board of Trustees
Minutes of January 19, 2011 Meeting**

**Present: Edward LeBlanc, Chairman Others: Ghislaine Therien, Clerk
Paul Lindquist Robert Murray, Treasurer
Matthew Gannon Martin Klara, Tax Collector
John Aharonian Chief David Del Vecchio
John Patrick McCoy
Michael Spaziano
Brian Campbell
Arthur Lambi**

OPENING:

Mr. LeBlanc called the regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) to order at 7:02 p.m.

Before entering into the agenda, Mr. LeBlanc introduced Gigi Therien who is the new Board Clerk. He also thanked outgoing Chief David Del Vecchio and presented him with a letter of appreciation from the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Murray submitted his report, offered copies to those in attendance and highlighted the following:

fæ NCFD Payroll and Overtime

„X Through December 2010 standard payroll was \$83,244.23 compared to \$60,349.08 last year. Overtime \$15,062.06 (26.14%) versus \$27,821.13 (34%) last year. Member Lambi inquired why payroll was \$63,100.63 for both October/November and \$83,244.23 for December. Treasurer stated December payroll included stipends, and incentive pay.

fæ Month of December P/L

Revenue:

„X Revenue collected \$44,085.66 vs. \$40,900.00 budgeted December 2010 (+\$3,314.48)

(\$1,702K collected in 2010 vs. \$1,533K in 2009)

„X Interest income \$375.18

„X Various Fees \$396.00 for December 2010 \$4,767.00 December YTD

„X YTD \$1,702,134.44 collected

„X Collected 87% of budgeted amount vs. 89% LY

Expenses:

Total Expenses December 2010 \$173,942.26

Account 6010: Truck repairs \$671.76

Account 6030: Purchase New Equipment \$6,003.00 (New Gear)

Account 6040: Radio Equipment & Repairs \$344.50

Account 6200: Payroll \$98,306.29

Account 6230: Volunteers \$4,942.50

Account 6300: Trustees' Fees \$2,097.13

Account 6360: F/F Training \$135.00 (\$305 over budget)

Account 6410: Newspaper Ads \$540.45

Account 6440: Christmas Expense \$74.90

Account 6480: Professional Fees \$8,084.00

December YTD Profit and Loss

„X Collected \$1,702,134.44 YTD in taxes on a budget for the year of \$1,954,538.00 and budget for the month of December \$1,723,000.00

„X Through the year earned interest income \$605.87; various income \$4,767.00 and FEMA reimbursement \$23,747.82

Balance Sheet December 2010

„X Total savings/cash: \$1,068,415.36

„X Taxes Receivable: \$ 514,383.82

„X Accrued Expenses: \$ 103,974.20 (Includes \$45,170 to WPS International)

„X Union Dues: \$ 1,755.00

„X Pension: \$ 5,166.04

„X Smoke Detector Fund \$ 33,475.46

„X Total Asset/Liab: \$ 3,028,081.18

Motion made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Spaziano to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

„X Mr. Klara submitted his report dated January 2011. Taxes collected in December 2010 totaled \$43,538.17.

„X Delinquent mailings went out in December.

„X Cleared all abatements. To discuss at February meeting.

„X \$43,000+ collected from delinquent taxes of \$100 or more.

Motion made by Mr. Lindquist and seconded by Mr. McCoy to accept the Tax Collector's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

CHIEF'S REPORT/MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

Chief Del Vecchio submitted his monthly report for December 20120 and highlighted the following:

No inspection report was available.

The North Cumberland Fire Department responded to 160 incidents in the month of December, this represents 50 more than the same month in 2009. Incident numbers are 1495 to 1654.

Personnel responded to:

„X Structure fire at 12 Reservoir Road 12/17/10 ;V District 5

„X Structure fire at 416 High Street 12/25/10 ;V District 1

„X Structure fire at 168 S. Washington Street 12/27/10 ;V North Attleboro.

„X Donation of \$1,500.00 to residents living at 415 High Street.

Personnel/Equipment:

„X Personnel began training on new IMC software.

„X Waiting for cab door to be installed on Truck 5 which was damaged while responding to an alarm

„X Truck should be back in service 3-4 weeks.

„X FF Bernardo overseeing the implementation of IMC software

„X Personnel cleared all hydrants in the district after snow storm

„X Purchased 3 new turnout gear at a cost of \$4,105.00. Gear lasts 10 years and meets FDA standards. Currently into 6th year. Eventually all FT firefighters will have new gear before 10 year period.

„X Received no grant monies yet to purchase chain saws. Amount of anticipated grant \$700.00.

Motion made by Mr. Gannon and seconded by Mr. Spaziano to accept the Chief's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

Minutes from the Special Meeting December 7, 2010 meeting were reviewed. December Minutes did not reflect Mr. LeBlanc voting in favor of Mr. Lambi's election to the Board. Motion made by Mr. McCoy to accept the Clerk's report with correction. Motion seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion carried with Mr. Lambi abstaining from the vote.

Minutes from the Special Meeting continued to the February 16, 2011 agenda for review and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes:

„X Refinancing of Truck discussed with Navigant Credit Union. Mr. Murray has sent all documentation to the credit union and closing is anticipated the second week of February. Credit union will hold the rate at 4.6%. Payoff amount is \$187,791.58.

„X Met with Dan Rubiano and Bob Jones. Credit union will do a look back. Coming in January 25, 2011 to discuss with Chief Del Vecchio and Mr. Murray. Chief stated would be better to meet later in the month.

Budget & Taxes

„X Mr. Murray discussed 2010 payroll and taxes under Treasurer's Report.

Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds

„X Discussed under Chief's Report

Personnel/Labor Relations

„X Mr. LeBlanc stated he was glad to see a donation of \$1,500 made to the family who had a structure fire on 12/25/10.

Negotiations

„X Active negotiations are ongoing. Third meeting held with union.

Labor Management

„X No meetings held.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of By-Law Amendments

„X Mr. LeBlanc sent out copy of By-Laws to members for review. Sent letter regarding change to charter. Will issue copy of new By-Laws.

„X Article 4, Section 4 states notice needs to be posted 2 days prior to meeting and not 7.

„X Section 8 states dismissal of a Trustee requires a 2/3 vote and needs to adjusted.

Status of Clerk's Position

„X Position has been advertised and filled.

Status of Chief's Position

„X Will discuss sharing position with services of Valley Falls and Cumberland Hill. Both districts are open to the proposal. Chief feels it would be a better fit with Valley Falls. Mr. LeBlanc sent a proposal to Chief Jackvony. Deputy position with Valley Falls will not be shared. They have tested for the position and may need to retest.

Refinance of Truck

„X Covered in Committee Report.

Audit of 2010 Finances

„X Covered in Treasurer's Report

Audit of 2011 Finances

„X Will make decisions when preparing 2011 report

Policy for Tax Abatements and Credits

„X No written policy on file

NEW BUSINESS

Schoolhouse Rental for EMT Classes

Chief received a call about running EMT classes in the schoolhouse. Classes will run 3-4 months. What would be reasonable to charge for rental. Need to verify instructor covered by insurance. Issues to consider are parking and number of individuals in each class. This is a possible revenue generator. Mr. LeBlanc was in favor of generating income for the district. Mr. Lindquist inquired about charging rental as NCFD is a non profit. Informed that it is unrelated business income and would need to file an IRS 990-990T. EMT classes are open enrollment with a discount for firefighters. Mr. LeBlanc would like to see something in writing.

VFIS Insurance Coverage & Premiums

Brad Preston could not attend January meeting but will be at the February meeting. Three policies are up for renewal in February at a

renewal cost of \$18,245 (+\$643 from last year's premium). If property deductible were increase rate would be less. Will look at quotes from other insurance suppliers. Accident/disability policy up for renewal in April.

Trustee Stipends

„X Mr. LeBlanc stated budget adjustments should be made to cover the audit.

„X Vote at the December meeting not permitted in the by-laws iV discussed if it was a legal vote

„X Residents felt line item should be reduced by \$5,000

„X Mr. Lindquist felt taxpayers were wrong iV budget was voted by residents in June. Mr. McCoy stated he felt the motion was legally improper.

„X Special meeting does not allow residents to adjust the budget

„X Mr. LeBlanc stated the Board sets the budget for approval at the annual meeting. Residents cannot make line item reductions. Mr. McCoy agrees with the by-laws interpretation.

„X Mr. Lambi stated he would donate his time from January to June without payment. Mr. LeBlanc concurred.

Motion made by Mr. Lambi to accept the motion made at the December 7, 2010 meeting to reduce the Trustee's fees. Vote taken with Mr. McCoy, Mr. Spaziano, Mr. Aharonian, Mr. Gannon, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Lindquist voting nay and Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Lambi voting aye. Motion failed with 6-2 vote.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Klara addressed the Board regarding a property dispute with the Cumberland Fire District since 2002. There seems to be confusion as to which district the resident should be taxed. Has been in our district since 2002 and we will re-tax him for two years. Cumberland Chief says the property is in his district. Do we owe resident a rebate? Property has been taxed by both districts last two years and is currently on our records.

Public Comment

„X NCFD has responded to 20% mutual aid cases. How many do we actually respond to? Chief responded mutual aid is defined as responding out of the district/town ;V accurate count is 5% not 20%.

„X Residents upset that taxpayers are seen in a negative manner. Mr. Lindquist responded that the firefighters are yelled at by residents in cars passing by. Taxpayers come down hard on the firefighters and respect for them has declined.

„X Resident suggested changing the incandescent bulbs in the schoolhouse with CFL bulbs to save on electric.

„X Resident inquired about the Chief's position being shared with District 1 (Valley Falls). Mr. LeBlanc replied the geography of the area's population led to the decision of sharing with Valley Falls. Decision is not final yet and they are pursuing other options.

„X Mr. Lambi stated when he looked at the expenses the legal fees being spent by the district were high and funds being spent for legal

representation could better be used to fund other line items. Mr. LeBlanc agreed. Legal fees over the past year have been high due to employee suits. Hoping to have some agreements finalized.

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

Motion made by Mr. Spaziano and seconded by Mr. Lambi and unanimously carried to enter into Executive Session in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) (9) Pending Arbitration and Litigation and R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2).

Motion made by Mr. Lindquist to adjourn the Executive Session minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. McCoy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Spaziano to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried to adjourn the public meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, APPROVED:

Ghislaine D. Therien Edward LeBlanc, Chairman

Clerk