

**North Cumberland Fire District
Board of Trustees
Minutes of March 16, 2011 Meeting**

**Present: Edward LeBlanc, Chairman Others: Ghislaine Therien,
Clerk**

**Paul Lindquist Robert Murray, Treasurer
Matthew Gannon Martin Klara, Tax Collector
John Aharonian Chief Brian Jackvony
John Patrick McCoy
Art Lambi Absent: Michael Spaziani
Brian Campbell**

OPENING

Mr. LeBlanc called to order the regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) at 7:01 p.m.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

„X Mr. Klara submitted his report dated March 2011. Taxes collected in February 2011 totaled \$47,984.71 plus \$117.81 late fees.

„X Notice of tax sale will be advertised this week.

„X \$48,175.07 YTD collected in 2009/2010 taxes due.

„X Total taxes collected to date \$1,831,939.00

Motion made by Mr. Gannon and seconded by Mr. Lindquist to accept

the Tax Collector's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Murray submitted his report and highlighted the following:

NCFD Payroll and Overtime

Through February of FY 2010/2011, over costs are \$128,213.98 compared to \$152,867.53 last fiscal year. Overtime for the month of February 2011 was \$6,957.31 versus \$10,984.74 last year.

Month of February 2011 P/L

Revenue:

Collected \$49,656.24 vs. \$51,100.00 budgeted (-\$1,897.48)

\$1,829K collected in 2011 vs. \$1,629K in 2010

Collected 93.5% of budgeted amount vs. 94.5% last fiscal year.

Expenses:

Total fiscal year expenses \$126,450.89/budgeted \$130,665.00 (-\$4,214.11) 33.97% of budget remaining

\$1,000.00 for Professional Services (legal fees). Mr. Lambi concerned that \$18,000.00 has been spent to date - \$28,000.00 budgeted leaving \$10,000.00 for rest of year.

February 2011 YTD Profit and Loss

Total Savings/Cash \$975,373.26 Liabilities/Equity \$2,817,721.12

\$500,000.00 transferred from Citizens to Navigant Credit Union.

\$155,000.00 excess from proceeds of engine 5 refinance

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

CLERK'S REPORT- February Meeting

Mr. Lambi was not present at the February meeting and inquired about the amount of payout to former Chief Del Vecchio. Mr. LeBlanc stated he was owed for vacation time, retirement contributions, and comp time. Chief Del Vecchio will submit his calendars documenting his accumulated time for the Board's review when he returns the end of March.

Motion made by Mr. Lindquist to accept the Clerk's report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Aharonian. All in favor. Motion carried.

CHIEF'S REPORT/MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

Chief Jackvony submitted his monthly report for February 2011 and highlighted the following:

Emergency Calls:

„X The North Cumberland Fire Department responded to 142 incidents in the month of February, this represents 25 (20%) more than the same month in 2010.

Personnel/Equipment:

„X Rescheduled training for new IMC software.

„X Ice Rescue Training with Districts 1 & 4.

Buildings/Grounds:

„X Soliciting quotes for replacement of heating system iV will pursue grant monies. Will look into National Grid grants.

„X Working on solutions for roof and awning replacement.

Equipment:

„X Truck 5 back in service.

„X Arbitrator audio and video recorder removed from Engine 5.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes:

„X Tax sale - covered in Tax Collector i's report.

„X FY 12 budget preparations iV will set date for Board to meet. Chief to submit line item recommendations.

„X Certificate of Invalidity iV Received copy of Superior Court Order from Fernando S. Cunha, Esq. requesting reimbursement to his client for tax sale of property located at 3890 Diamond Hill Road. Mr. LeBlanc contacted NCFD i's tax firm.

Audit of 2010 Finances:

„X Field work completed.

Budget & Taxes

„X Discussed under Treasurer's Report.

Apparatus/Buildings/Grounds

„X Discussed replacement of heating system. Will start looking for infrastructure monies.

„X Mr. Lambi suggested setting up a five-year capital budget worksheet. Mr. McCoy stated five year plan is good but would need to go on a year-to-year basis. Mr. Lambi will put together a template.

„X Proposed consolidation of 4 districts is an issue.

„X New Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) should be worked into next year's budget.

Personnel/Labor Relations

„X Will discuss in Executive Session.

Negotiations

„X Active negotiations are ongoing. Insurance is the major item.

„X New Blue Cross rates coming in April.

„X Meeting was held on February 28, 2011 at the Cumberland Public Library with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

„X Will look into rates from United Healthcare.

Labor Management

„X Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Refinance of Truck

„X Covered in Treasurer's Report.

Audit of 2010 Finances

„X Report lists the following discrepancies:

„X Two employees did not receive longevity raises on their anniversary dates.

„X Personnel files did not contain the necessary information to verify position held for one firefighter and base pay during the probationary period for another.

„X Overtime rate utilized for one individual was not correct.

„X Wrong start date listed for two employees.

„X Manpower shifts not clearly documented in daily shift reports.

„X Were not able to verify payments received because copies of checks were not maintained.

Policy for Tax Abatements and Credits

„X Mr. LeBlanc will email policy to members for review.

Schoolhouse Rental for EMT Classes

„X Chief Jackvony felt not a good idea to rent out the schoolhouse.

Concerned about parking and snow.

VFIS Insurance

„X Policy to start on July 1st.

„X Statements will coincide with fiscal year

„X Mr. Lambi inquired why NCFD policy was \$18,000.00 and Valley Falls \$16,000.00. Chief stated value of apparatus may be a determining factor. Number of employees could also result in higher premium.

NEW BUSINESS

Complaint against NCFD filed with RI Commission for Human Rights - Clark

„X Board had an agreement with him regarding another grievance. Filed this complaint pro se claiming his civil rights were violated because he has a disability. Our insurance carrier will cover legal representation and fees.

Ferreira Grievance

„X Firefighter Ferreira signed a pre-employment agreement that he would be considered for hiring only if he attained and maintained EMT-C (cardiac) certification. He and the Union contend that the requirement to maintain EMT-C is a violation of the collective bargaining agreement. The District agrees and will not require Firefighter Ferreira to maintain his EMT-C certification as a condition of employment.

Appreciation Dinner

„X Mr. Lindquist felt even with budget constraints the event could be done for \$1,000.00. Mr. Lambi suggested looking for sponsors to help fund the event. Will discuss at March meeting.

Consolidation Meeting

„X Mr. Lindquist stated he would like to see copies of budgets from all four districts to develop one budget.

„X Consolidation is necessary. Would like one independent fire district not controlled by the Town. Problem with four different tax rates.

„X Meeting scheduled for March 31st at 7:00 pm at the Hayden Library. Mayor wants to merge and has a committee in place.

„X Mr. LeBlanc stated the Board has the final say regarding consolidation, unless the state legislature revokes the District's charter.

„X Mr. Lambi asked if it would be possible to assess a flat fee with an additional charge for fire service.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield

„X Discussed under Committee Reports

PUBLIC COMMENT

„X Phillip Koutsogiane commented on the Certificate of Invalidity discussed under Committee Reports stating notice needs to be given before a judge can sign off on a document. Mr. McCoy concurred.

Mr. Koutsogiane also knows of a sponsor who may be interested in the Appreciation Dinner.

OTHER

**„X April 20th meeting scheduled during school vacation week.
Meeting moved to April 27th.**

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

Motion made by Mr. Lindquist and seconded by Mr. McCoy to move 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). All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Lindquist to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried to adjourn the public meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, APPROVED:

Ghislaine D. Therien Edward LeBlanc, Chairman

Ghislaine D. Therien

Clerk