

Harrisville Fire District

115 Central Street

Harrisville, RI 02830

ANNUAL MEETING, MONDAY JUNE 9, 2014

Annual Meeting called to order at 8:09 PM by Moderator Ronald Slocum.

The moderator gave notice that there is a quorum.

Warrant was read by the Clerk.

Minutes of the 2013 annual meeting were read by the Clerk. Motion made by Richard Gingell that the minutes be accepted as read. Seconded by Bruce Fournier. So voted 19-0.

Minutes of the special meeting of the Harrisville Fire District, March 24, 2014 were read by the clerk. Motion made by Richard Gingell that the minutes of the March 24, 2014 special meeting be accepted as read, second by Michelle Bouchard. So voted 19-0.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Mark A. St. Pierre reported that the fire department responded to 914 alarms in 2013, an increase of 34 alarms or 3.7%. Of the 914 alarms, 42 were in the former Glendale district, a decrease of 13 from the previous year. We continue to monitor emergency responses in our section of Glendale to be prepared to meet any future needs in that area of the District.

Our emergency medical service (EMS) calls in 2013 totaled 639 alarms, an increase of five alarms, which represents a 0.06% increase. Total fire alarms were 275, and increase of 29, which represents a 10.5% increase in fire related alarms. Our total fire loss for 2013 was \$46,200.00, \$96,300.00 less than 2012, representing a 67.5% decrease in total fire loss from the previous year. This is the second consecutive year our fire loss has decreased. Of those 275 fire related alarms, 26 were deemed false alarms.

In 2013 we received automatic mutual-aid from other departments a total of 103 occasions. We provided automatic or requested mutual-aid a total of 197 occasions.

In fire prevention for both education and code enforcement for 2013, District fire marshals conducted 37 fire code inspections, 62 residential smoke/carbon monoxide detector inspections, and six plan reviews for various types of construction. Our fire prevention education program is now in its 35th year. Programs were conducted at the William L. Callahan School, Austin T. Levy School, Steere Farm Elementary School, Harrisville Pre-School, and at the fire station.

The fire station continues to be an extended classroom for our community partner, the Austin T. Levy School.

In 2013 we received a \$49,600.00 grant from FEMA, through the Fire Act grant program to purchase 27 sets of new firefighting gear. We also received legislative grants from Sen. Paul Fogarty and Rep. Cale Keable which allowed us to purchase a new replacement battery for a thermal imaging camera on Engine 22 and new helmets for junior firefighters. We also received a grant from the Levy Foundation which allowed us to purchase a new SCBA for Engine 22. The Department now is just under the \$1,000,000.00 mark for the amount of grant funds received over the past two decades.

The Per Diem schedule has now been set up to include Saturday and Sunday days and evenings, as well as the third (11PM – 7AM) shift seven nights a week. It is now progressed with nine per-diem firefighters, five from within the department and four from outside the department and is working well.

Motion made by Bruce Fournier to approve the fire chief's report. Seconded by Richard Gingell. So voted 19-0

Election of Officers

Moderator: One declared candidate, Mr. Ronald Slocum.

Motion by Michael Gingell, seconded by Richard Gingell that the clerk cast one ballot for Ronald Slocum. So voted, 19-0. Ronald Slocum re-elected as Moderator for a 1 year term.

Clerk: One declared candidate, Mr. Nathan M. St. Pierre.

Motion by Scott George, seconded by Brenda Gingell that the clerk cast one ballot for Nathan M. St. Pierre. So voted, 19-0. Nathan M. St. Pierre re-elected as Clerk for a 1 year term.

Tax Assessor: Two declared candidates, Mr. Nathan M. St. Pierre and Mr. Shane Mansolf.

Shane Mansolf re-elected as Tax Assessor for a 3 year term.

Operating Committee: Four declared candidates, Mr. Ronald Slocum, Mr. John Polacek, Ms. Michelle Bouchard, and Mr. Benjamin Alix. A copy of an email was read from Mr. Alix addressed to the District Office Manager stating he no longer wishes to run for membership on the Operating Committee. Motion by Shane Mansolf, seconded by Brenda Gingell, that the clerk cast one ballot for each of the remaining candidates. So voted 19-0.

Ronald Slocum re-elected to the Operating Committee for a 3 year term. John Polacek re-elected to the Operating Committee for a 3 year term. Michelle Bouchard re-elected to the Operating Committee for a 3 year term.

Approval of Fire District Budget

Nathan St. Pierre asked what the anticipated tax rate will be. Chairman Slocum stated there is no anticipated increase in the tax rate. This budget is slightly over 1% increase from the previous year.

Vote of the Fire District budget was as follows. Motion made by Ronald Slocum and seconded by Richard Gingell that the Fire District budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 be no less than \$1,390,341.00 and not more than \$1,490,341.00. So voted 19-0.

Approval of Water Department Budget

Vice Chairman George stated the total is a small increase however there is no anticipated water rate increase.

Vote of the Water Department budget was as follows. Motion made by Scott George and seconded by James Scotland that the Water Department budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 be no less than \$674,431.00 and not more than \$774,431.00. So voted 19-0.

Establishing a Vehicle Purchasing Committee

Chief Mark St. Pierre is asking the District to establish a committee to replace our primary rescue/EMS vehicle. Currently our primary vehicle Medic 2 is a 2006, with 108,000 miles, and our backup, Rescue 2 is a 1996, with 118,000 miles. Rescue 2, being ten years older has been called upon often during this past year due to the constant mechanical problems with Medic 2. Financially, Medic 2 is close to being paid for, so we should not have to add an extra payment to the budget as the new vehicle payments should begin after payments for Medic 2 have been completed.

Motion made by Mark St. Pierre, seconded by Richard Gingell to appoint a rescue/EMS vehicle purchasing committee consisting of the following individuals: Norman Mainville, Kevin Deschamps, Michelle Bouchard, Douglas Rhodes, Michael Gingell, and Mark St. Pierre. So voted 19-0.

Auditors Report

Chairman Slocum stated the District had another good report, we are doing fine.

Motion made by Richard Gingell and seconded by Bruce Fournier to approve auditor's report. So voted 19-0.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None.

Good of the Cause

Richard Gingell wished to congratulate Michael Gingell for being named Rhode Island Division of EMS volunteer EMT of the Year. Mr. R. Gingell also thanked all full time and volunteer firefighter/EMT's for all of their good work, and also to all water department and office workers as well.

Amanda Gingell wanted to check the status of the fire station floors. Bruce Fournier stated the floors will be last, after everything else is done. Ms. Gingell asked what the other plans are. Mr. Fournier stated the kitchen, skylights, and cabinets will be worked on. A possible time line for all of this work to be done is three to four months. Kevin Deschamps stated that kids from the schools come in to the station, and they are sitting on the disgusting floor. Norman Mainville asked what type of floor will be going into the station. Mr. Fournier stated it was decided that a similar floor to the one recently put in at the district office will go in at the fire station, it will not be carpet again. Brenda Gingell said that one room at a time should be done. If the rug needs to be cleaned then do it now and get the room done. Then move to on to the kitchen. Don't skip over part of a room. Keith Jackson stated he works in construction, and he believes you can do one room at a time and do it sooner.

Nathan St. Pierre asked if there has been thought of doing an energy audit for the fire station. Mr. Fournier stated he is not familiar with that and has not thought of doing it. Motion made by Nathan St. Pierre, seconded by Tina Pichie that an energy audit be done on the fire station while the Building Sub-Committee is working on renovations to it. So votes 19-0.

Amanda Gingell suggested the Building Sub-Committee get input from firefighters about building repairs.

Keith Jackson asked if the 3 PM – 11 PM per-diem shift will be started. Chief St. Pierre said that is a question for the Operating Committee, and at this time they have not indicated they want to.

Michael Gingell had a point of interest. Can the District have legal counsel research what would we do in the event that balloting ends in a tie.

Adjournment

Motion made by Richard Gingell and seconded by James Scotland that the annual meeting be adjourned at 8:53 PM. So voted 19-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan M. St. Pierre, MPA

District Clerk