

## **Chepachet Fire District**

### **Executive Committee – Monthly Meeting**

**April 18th, 2012**

**The Chepachet Fire District monthly meeting was held at the Chepachet Fire Station on Wednesday, April 18th, 2012. Board member Jamie Hainsworth called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Members present were George Leonhardt and Lynda Martone. Also present were Treasurer David Steere, District Clerk/Secretary Darlene Shields, Tax Collector Patricia Svansson , Chief Robert Dauphinais and Deputy Chief Dennis Huestis. Absent were Robert Lohr and Earl Newman**

#### **Secretary's Report:**

**All members have received copies of the minutes for March 21st, 2012 for their review.**

**Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the minutes as presented, second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 3–0.**

#### **Tax Collector's Report:**

**Mrs. Svansson has not heard from her contacts for the tax sale. Mrs. Svansson sent out 162 warning letters on April 3rd and to date there are 122 remaining accounts that remaining on the list. Also, the drop box in the box as been being used and working out well.**

**Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the Tax Collector's Report, second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 3-0.**

**Treasurer Report:**

**Mr. Steere presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2012. Expenses are at 61% and we are 80% through the year on the budget and in good shape. Mr. Steere refers to the last page of the report. All accounts are well funded. Third Party saving \$15,000 on deposit for the month.**

**Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the Treasurer's Reports as presented and pay the monthly bills, Second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 3-0.**

**Chief's Report:**

**Chief Dauphinais read and submitted the March 2012 Monthly Chief's Reports to be placed on file.**

**Motion made by Mr. Leonhardt to accept the Chief's Monthly Reports for March 2012 and place the copies on file, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 3-0.**

**Committee:**

**Fire Truck Committee: Chief Dauphinais has signed the contract to purchase the New Fire Truck and is looking at delivery in approximately 8 months.**

**Mr. Steere questioned board as to the financing for the new Fire Truck. According to the accepted bid the cost of the truck after the trade will be \$398,968. Mr. Steere proposes that the truck be financed the following way:**

**\$190,000 from the truck fund, 3rd Party Fund \$59,968 and possibly bump that to \$68,968. Also the chief mentioned that The Town of Glocester will be purchasing Engine 14 for \$10,000 the same amount that we would have received as trade from Pierce.**

**Mr. Steere is looking for the ok to do the financing for \$150,000 over a 4 year period. That would work out for an annual payment of \$40,837 and looking to make an extra payment which will shorten the loan to a 3 year term. Mr. Steere is in talks with Navigant Bank for a possible leader. Navigant has no problem with an annual payment, no penalty for prepay of the loan and does not require general obligation bonds.**

**Motion made by Mrs. Martone for Mr. Steere to proceed with acquiring a loan in the amount of \$150,000 for funding the new fire truck, second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 3-0.**

**Old Business: No Old Business**

**New Business:**

## **1. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 - 2013:**

**Mr. Steere presented a draft of the proposed budget. Some changes the chief would like to see changed is to drop the inspector pay down by \$5,000 and put that \$5,000 towards Scott Air Packs which would make that account \$6500.00. Chief Dauphinais mentioned that over the next few years there are approximately 30 Air Packs that were purchased with a grant a few years back are now expiring. Chief Dauphinais would like to start replacing about 10 each year so not to have to come up with the money to purchase all of them at once.**

**Pay increases options are 3%, 2.5% or nothing. Other account that need to be consider for changes are as follows: office supplies bumped up by \$500.00, street lights up \$1500.00, drinking water up \$100.00, fuel \$1000.00, lights \$1000.00, merge the tire account \$1500.00 move those funds into motor vehicle maintenance which would total \$11,500, contingency up \$500.00, truck investment bump that up to \$50,000 an \$8,600 increase which would cover the truck payment due in the coming year. Total Proposed Budget would be \$506, 666 which would be an increase would be a 3% increase. Mr. Steere proposed a tax increase of .95c per thousand to .965c per thousand to cover the increase in the budget.**

**Mr. Steere also made note that the Chief is looking replace the Rescue in approximately 3 years. Third Party is averaging \$12,000 a month which would be approximately \$150,000 annually. Mr. Steere**

**proposes that \$100,000 be used for the budget and \$50,000 be put aside for the new Rescue in 3 years time there would be \$150,000 to put toward the purchase of a new Rescue.**

**Mr. Hainsworth inquired to use the Fund Balance(surplus) to offset the new budget increases so that the tax rate will remain the same. Mr. Steere was looking into the future where the Fire Districts will start falling under the 4% rule and to bump the tax rate this year would provide a little cushion for the following year. Mr. Steere also feels comfortable taking funds from surplus to balance the budget and keep the tax rate the same.**

**Mr. Hainsworth asked what the surplus would be in July. Mr. Steere couldn't provide the numbers this far out, but as of this meeting there is \$781,000 in funds of which \$446,000 is dedicated which leaves \$335,000 in operating funds. Mr. Hainsworth feels with that much surplus couldn't we use those funds to keep the tax rate the same. Mr. Steere mentioned that even though our tax rate changed it coincides with the revaluations in truth there was little or no increase to the tax payers. It all depended on what their property was revalued at.**

**Mr. Steere agreed that it was such a small amount to take from surplus to support the budget increase and keep the tax rate the same that would work. Mrs. Shields will make all the proposed changes and provided an updated budget at next month's meeting to**

be voted on.

## **2. Meeting with Senator Fogarty:**

**Chief Dauphinais mentioned a meeting on April 30th with Senator Fogarty and the Fire Chiefs from Burrillville and Glocester regarding the pending issues that in front of the House and Senate regarding the 4% budget cap.**

## **3. 100th Anniversary Gathering:**

**The Fire Departments official 100th Anniversary on April 26th. The members of the department will be hanging a banner in celebration of the department Centennial. Afterwards everyone is welcome to attend Pinewood Pub on Terry Lane for dinner/appetizers around 7pm.**

**Next scheduled meeting is the Monthly Board Meeting on May 16th, 2012.**

**With no further business at this time, motion made by Mrs. Martone to adjourn, second by Mr. Leonhardt passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm**

**Respectfully submitted,~~~~~**

**Darlene L Shields**

**Darlene L. Shields**

**District Clerk / Chepachet Fire District**