

Chepachet Fire District

Executive Committee – Monthly Meeting

August 22, 2012

The Chepachet Fire District monthly meeting was held at the Chepachet Fire Station on Wednesday, August 22nd, 2012. Chairman Earl Newman called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Members present were Robert Lohr, George Leonhardt and Eric Croft 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 Lynda Martone

Secretary's Report:

All members have received copies of the minutes for July 18th Monthly Meeting for their review.

Motion made by Mr. Lohr to accept the minutes as presented, second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 4–0.

Tax Collector's Report:

Mrs. Svansson emailed Mr. Craven regarding the properties still remaining on the tax sale list. He sent a resolution for the Tax Sale that will be held on September 21st@ 10am. Advertizing for the upcoming Tax will be the Providence Journal on August 31st.

At this time there are still 32 properties left on the list.

Mrs. Svansson has been in contact with Jane – the Town of Gloucester’s Tax Collector – regarding the properties not purchased at the Tax Sale. The Town of Gloucester does not do anything with those properties not sold they just leave them alone. Chief questioned who’s liable for the property. The District is not liable for any of the property unless the District chooses to foreclose on the property. Also questioned if the District chooses to redeem one year after the tax sale would that be in the best interest of the District. The District would have to go through the process of foreclosure through the courts. Mrs. Svansson clarified that the only properties that were not purchased at tax sale were land only pieces of property. At this time those properties that were not purchased at the tax sales will be left alone. At some point when someone is interested in redeeming the property all expenses to the District will need to be paid.

Mr. Lohr questioned the Title Search fee on some of the properties on the current tax sale list that were discussed at last month’s meeting. Those properties did have houses have most likely gone into foreclosure and they recommended go ahead and have the title search done and more than likely when they go to sell those properties those fees will have to be paid and the district will get the money back.

Motion made by Mr. Lohr to accept the Annual Tax Collector’s Report, second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 4-0.

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Steere presented the first report for the Fiscal Year 2012/2013.

Mr. Steere questioned Mrs. Shields as to the funds collected in 3rd party since June in the amount of \$20,771.76 which seemed a little high. Mrs. Shields explained that those funds are from deposits from July 1st to date. 3rd Party Funds are paid throughout the course of the year some insurance companies pay within a month or 2 while others could take months to pay the claim. However, Mrs. Shields also pointed out that May and June had a high number of Rescue Calls and which would also reflect in the higher amount. Total funds \$702,000 of which \$486,742 dedicate funds which leave operating funds of \$215,258 until Patty starts collecting Taxes at the end of the year.

Mr. Steere also mentioned that the loan for the new Fire Truck have been approved and when we are ready to close they we will just call them to close when the truck is ready to be delivered.

Motion made by Mr. Lohr to accept the Treasurer's Reports as presented and to pay the monthly bills, second by Mr. Croft and passed 4-0.

Chief's Report:

Chief Dauphinais read and submitted the July 2012 Monthly Chief's Report and Annual Chiefs Report to be placed on file.

Motion made by Mr. Leonhardt to accept the Chief's Monthly Reports for July 2012 and Annual Chief Reports and place the copies on file, second by Mr. Croft and passed 4-0.

Committee: Fire Truck Committee: Truck is in the design stage and Chief will start getting weekly updates once the building process starts. Delivery date still estimated for November. Mr. Steere questions on terms of payment and if they are looking for a check the day of delivery.

New Business:

1. Abatement of Outstanding Taxes:

Mrs. Svansson presented a list of taxes to be considered for Tax Abatement. These are for tangible properties of old accounts which most have be being returned in the mail for being undeliverable at this point. Total amount to be considered for abatement is \$2,156.82 net (does not include interest). State law is 10 years that we can go back and collect on past accounts. Mr. Lohr inquired as to using an attorney to collect unpaid taxes. Mrs. Svansson mentioned that she has used Edward McCormick's office in the past to collect unpaid

taxes but the District does not pursue in small claims court. Most of the people are no longer the owners of the properties.

Motion made by Mr. Lohr to abatement the outstanding taxes for the tangible propertied Mrs. Svansson has submitted, second by Mr. Leonhradt and passed 4-0.

2. Tax Sale Resultion:

a. Chairman Earl Newman read the Tax Resolution provided by Attorney Robert Craven

Motion made by Mr. Lohr to Accept Tax Sale Resolution as read by Chairman Earl Newman, second by Mr. Croft and passed 4-0.

3. Ticket for 100th Anniversary Banquet:

a. Chief Dauphinais mentioned tickets were available to purchase for the upcoming 100th Anniversary Banquet to be at Crystal Lake.

4. Meeting of the 3 Fire District

a. The 3 Fire Chiefs and 1 or 2 Board Members from Each District to discuss the response times to calls and possible staffing issues to calls as well as go over other issues all 3 districts are facing. The possibility of 3rd shift Per Diem Coverage is also another option that will be discussed. Possible dates for meeting are September 10,11,13.

Mr. Newman questioned the open meeting act. Mrs. Shields will look

into Open Meeting Law and be in contact with Chief as to requirement to have meeting/discussion. Chief will be in contact with Board Members once a date has been determined.

Next scheduled meeting is the Monthly Board Meeting is September 19th at 6:30pm

With no further business at this time, motion made by Mr. Lohr to adjourn, second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm

Respectfully submitted, ~~~~~

Darlene L Shields

Darlene L. Shields

District Clerk / Chepachet Fire District