

Chepachet Fire District

Executive Committee – Monthly Meeting

April 16th, 2014

The Chepachet Fire District monthly meeting was held at the Chepachet Fire Station on Wednesday, April 16th, 2014. Chairman Earl Newman called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Members present were Robert Lohr, Lynda Martone, George Leonhardt. Also present were Treasurer David Steere, District Clerk/Secretary Darlene Shields, Chief Robert Dauphinais and Deputy Chief Dennis Huestis. Absent was Eric Croft

Secretary's Report:

All members have received copies of the minutes for March 19th, 2014 of the Monthly Board Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Leonhardt to accept the minutes as presented, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft

Tax Collector's Report:

Mrs. Svansson stated that during the month of March 10 deposits were made totaling \$29,006.58. As she reported last month 160 warning letter were mailed out for those who owed 2 years or more on their tax bill and she has a very good responses and as of yesterday she was down to 71 remaining unpaid. Most have paid in full or on account.

Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the Tax Collector's Monthly Report, second by Mr. Lohr and passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Steere presented the Treasurer's Monthly Reports for April 2014 and that we are 83% through the year. Account that are over 83% are

Rescue Maintenance, Equipment Repair, Snow Removal and overall we are at 67% we have \$166,000 to carry us through the next 2 months. Mr. Newman remarked that with the winter we had it's no surprise the snow removal is over. Account on the last page overall there is \$800,000 of which \$398,000 is restricted and the remaining balance of \$402,000 is operating funds.

Mr. Steere made mention of one concern is that 3rd Party has really dropped off. Last month \$6,700 and this month is \$5,900. Mrs. Martone asked if there were less Rescue Calls. Mr. Steere said Mrs. Shields has looked into this more with Dawson and there are several reasons one being the type of insurance the patients have and possible the Obamacare changes that has gone into effect.

Mr. Newman questioned if there is a decreased in calls and Mrs. Shields said that the amount of calls and remained for the most part the same. Mrs. Shields explained that she has gone the several reports with Dawson and United Health Payments is where the biggest drop is and either we are not transporting those patients or they no longer have that coverage. Overall we are down 33% from last year to date in 3rd Party payments. Mr. Huestis made mention that in January many people change their plans for the coming year. Mr. Steere mentioned that this is something we need to monitor going forward.

Motion made by Mr. Lohr to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and to pay the monthly bills, second by Mr. Leonhardt and Passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining
Earl K Newman, Chairman X
Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X
George Leonhardt X
Lynda Martone X
Eric Croft

Chief's Report:

Chief Dauphinais read and submitted the March 2014 Chief's Monthly Reports to be placed on file.

Motion made by Mr. Leonhardt to accept the Chief's Monthly Report for March 2014, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining
Earl K Newman, Chairman X
Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X
George Leonhardt X
Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft

Committee: Charter Committee: Tabled

Old Business:

1. Septic: Application and Site Plan have been approved Chief is going to sit down with Mr. Lohr to draw up plans to be bid on.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 - 15:

Mr. Street presented a proposed Budget for the board to review Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015. Mr. Steere mentioned changes the new budget is a proposed 3% pay increase and also increase the truck lease account.

Mr. Steere presented that paying off the existing truck loan and by doing that in order to not have 2 truck payments pay off the truck now and when the truck committee proposes to get a rescue in January 2015 and that payment for the new rescue should be January 2016.

Mr. Newman question balance on Truck Loan. Mr. Steere advised balance is about \$110,000. Mrs. Martone questioned the saving in interest. Mr. Steere mentioned there will be some saving but the rate was really good so a little saving on interest by paying it off early.

Mr. Steere advised the new Rescue per the Chief should cost around

\$200,000. Mr. Steere said bottom line 2014/15 Budget is overall less from 2013/14 Budget. Mr. Steere proposes taking the extra \$60,000 to pay off the truck loan from the 3rd Party Account. Currently \$100,000 is used annual too support the budget. Mr. Steere proposed taking \$160,000 in this budget with the truck loan expense to increase to \$110,000 to pay off the loan. Mr. Newman questioned where that money is coming from. Mr. Steere mentioned currently there is \$263,000 in the 3rd party account. Mr. Newman questioned how much more coming in for 3rd party. Mr. Steere said you don't know it will vary based calls we have 2 more months for this fiscal year. 3rd Party is averaging \$12,500 per month.

Mr. Steere also noted 3 things that the Chief has discussed: Septic System, Repair of Building and Communication Upgrade

Mr. Steere noted that those 3 items have not been budgeted for in the new budget. Mr. Steere feels the septic system will be priority. Chief mentioned that some singles need to be placed on the side of the building. Mr. Steere feels that at the annual meeting when the Chief has the cost of the Septic System make a motion to appropriate funds from surplus. Building repairs - Mr. Steere mentioned that there has been money set aside for kitchen upgrades that could be reallocated for building repairs in the amount of \$22,000. Mrs. Martone questioned any remaining funds available in this year's budget to be put towards building upgraded.

Mr. Steere said there was about \$100,000 remaining in this year

budget with some big expenses still to come but there should be funds left in this year's budget.

Chief made note that he doesn't know where the communication upgrade is heading yet. There has been talk with Motorola who is designing the system about the possibility of them doing the upgrades.

Mr. Steere asked if anyone had questions, changes to the budget to please contact Mrs. Shields.

2. Chief asked to put discussion of vacation / sick time for both the Tax Collector and Secretary on next month's agenda.

Chief made mention that neither the Tax Collector nor the Secretary has sick time that is set stone. Chief feels that something should be set for them based on their hours. Chief mentioned that they both feel obligated to make up their time when they are out sick and would like to see them have set sick time. Patty has been here for 23 years and Darlene 10 years. Mr. Newman feels that it should be a set in stone. Chief feels that they are both very about their time but it would be nice if they had something they could go by.

3. Fireman of the Year Award:

Mrs. Martone mentioned she attended the Chepachet Grange's where

Deputy Chief was honored Fireman of the Year. She feels that it was a very worthy award for his 32 years of service to the department. She also mentioned that several other members of the town also received awards in varied fields and it was a very nice ceremony. Mrs. Martone went to support Deputy Chief in his award and felt is well deserved. Mr. Newman congratulated Deputy Chief Huestis on his award and thanked him for his years of service. Deputy Chief thanked Chief Dauphinais on his recommendation and the nice words he said on his behalf.

4. Structure Fire:

Chief talked about the structure fire up the street next to St. Eugene's Church. When he got there is was pretty heavily involved and was progressing feel fast and got dangerous real quick. Chief feels that the training is paying off very well because the guys in that building and the guys did a phenomenal job.

The next meeting will be the Canvas the Voter's List Meeting May 21stth, 2014 at 6:15pm.

Also following the Canvas the Voter's List Meeting will be the Monthly Meeting at 6:30pm.

With no further business at this time, motion made by Mr. Leohardt to adjourn, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned

at 6:57pm.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman X

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft

Respectfully submitted, ~~~~~~

Darlene L Shields

Darlene L. Shields

District Clerk / Chepachet Fire District