

*Watch Hill Fire District
Watch Hill, R.I. 02891*

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, May 22, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Fire Station

222 Watch Hill Road

Watch Hill, RI

A meeting of the District Council of the Watch Hill Fire District was held at the Watch Hill Fire Station at 4:05 p.m. Friday, May 22, 2015.

The following members were present:

Charles S. Whitman III, Moderator
Paul Verbinnen, Finance Committee Chairman
Grant G. Simmons III, Chairman Park Commission
Robert Peacock, Fire Chief
Andrew Parsons, Member at Large
Ann Stevenson, Member at Large

By Phone:

Robert Murray, Treasurer

Other voters present:

Judy O'Connell, Finance Committee
Joan Lemp

Also present were:

Judy Kelley, Fire District Office Manager

Proper notice having been given and a quorum being present, the Moderator, Charles S. Whitman III, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of November 28, 2014, which were previously circulated, were approved.

Finance Committee – Mr. Paul Verbinnen

Mr. Verbinnen noted that the current year expenses were within budget and that he expected to end the year with a slight surplus, which will be rolled over into the cash reserve.

Treasurer – Mr. Robert Murray

Mr. Murray reported that the Fire District's cash position was good, with \$355,000 of unrestricted funds as of April 30.

Park Commission – Mr. Grant G. Simmons III

Mr. Simmons reported that the parking/hurricane pass packages were ready and that pick up would begin 5/23. He also stated that there was a full contingency of staff already working at the Fire District parking lot.

Mr. Simmons reported that there were arrests on East Beach today for alcohol violations. However, the police could not force the people present to leave as they did not have authority from the property

owners. It will be suggested to the East Beach Association that they obtain such authority and then transfer it to the police. Mr. Simmons said he would try to get the new town manager to walk the beach on a warm Saturday afternoon to see what is going on there and the need for a regular police patrol.

Relative to illegal parking, Mrs. Stevenson noted that people were already parking on Niantic. Meanwhile, No Parking signs have been posted on Watch Hill Road. Violators will be ticketed first, then towed.

Mr. Simmons noted that he has budgeted for an off duty police officer from 10 am to 2 pm to direct traffic in the downtown area. However, since the officer is off duty, he cannot make arrests or issue tickets.

Fire Department – Robert Peacock

Chief Peacock noted that fire calls are starting to pick up. Over half the annual calls come during the summer, when half of the volunteers are gone. He noted that the fire department had gained 4 new members, although one left due to the time commitment and 2 older members also left. Chief Peacock pointed out that no one living in the Fire District, other than himself, is a member of the department and that while he has a good contingent who live outside the district, their lives are changing as their children grow up and require more attention. These are the usual volunteer issues and Chief Peacock feels that at some point we will be forced to have some paid help.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Kelley
Office Manager