

Coventry Fire District/AFD Board of Directors

April 09, 2008

Meeting of the Coventry Fire District Board of Directors

571 Washington Street, Coventry, RI 02816

Board members in attendance

Gary Cote, Patricia Lefebvre, Shirley Matthews, Ed Webster, TJ Matola

Clerk Keith Calci

Minutes of the meeting:

7:30 PM meeting started

1. Board of Directors Update & Discussion

Gary – Tax collectors report, \$920,758.40 collections to date. On the March 28th tax sale the district sold two properties for \$ 3,125. Balance in Coventry Credit union \$ 136,665.08

Gary – Received another sewer assessment for the station and the property next door, a bill with interest, \$ 2,174.70 and \$ 6,075.85, Gary will go to the next town council meeting to address this issue again.

Gary – Received a letter from attorney Capaldi's office about taxing fuel depots in the district. The attorney stated that a fuel tax would

not be legal but should his additional research indicate differently, he would contact the board with the information.

Gary – Read a letter from Coventry Firefighters Union Local 3240 in support of President Carlow that was signed by ten of the members.

Gary – Last month’s minutes reflected an inaccurate count for the vacant board position the official vote was 2 to 1 with 1 abstained in favor of TJ Matola.

Gary – TJ checked into using EGFD bucket truck. TJ stated there would be no problem with that the district charges \$24 per hour per guy plus fuel.

Shirley – Scituate has one that we may be able to use. Chief Labbadia stated he will check with Chief Campbell.

2. Chief’s Report.

Chief Labbadia stated that things are going pretty well and getting a lot accomplished; There are a few areas in the budget that are in the red and the administration is watching it; Received several quotes on building renovations; Spoke with insurance adjustor about the generator and it looks like we are able to incorporate the electrical issues into the insurance claim, \$ 36,000 plus to fix the electrical system and install new generator; Firefighters have been putting in

extra time above and beyond their official duties; submitting for some grants; spoke with General Bray, he will do whatever is possible to get rid of the materials in the school building.

Gary – Thank Shirley and her husband for filling the dumpster full of scrap metal, per the agreement with the dumpster company the district will split the profit 50/50 with the dumpster company.

Chief Labbadia – MOA signed on the Fire Marshall's position, going to put on a full time Marshall, there are several buildings in the district that have not been inspected in years because of work load. It looks like Lt. Perra will be in that position. There is a big liability because a lot of buildings have not been brought up to code;

Also added a severance package, we have about 3-4 people who could retire, this will allow payments to be made as a paycheck allowing for better budgeting;

Also promotional exams, promotion will be on straight seniority, they will go thru an officers class and then ranked based on date of hire.

Chief Labbadia spoke about the pro's and con's of renting a bucket truck vs. buying one at auction.

3. Public Comment

Kerri (potential buyer of property next door) – Repair costs are much

higher than expected \$ 118,000 - \$ 122,000, extensive fire damage and we need to renegotiate.

District's Attorney – purchase and sales agreement signed by the district is legal and binding.

Kerri – there is a contingency in there for an inspection time.

District's attorney – 30 days, signed on 03-20, it's getting close to that.

Discussion between Kerri and board

Gary – It is a matter of public record that you want out of the contract. Agreeable to the board that the ladies are going to issue a letter to opt out of the contract.

Shirley – Motion that we accept offer from Coventry Housing Authority for \$ 50,000

Gary – If everything meets legal criteria to opt out of contract then we will go to Coventry housing.

TJ – Seconded

Shirley – I filled out the disclosure, I didn't know about fire damage

Discussion

All board members were in favor.

Discussion about the land on Hildan Street.

4. Adjournment

TJ – Motion to adjourn; Shirley Seconded; All in favor, meeting adjourned 8:24 PM.

Submitted,

Keith Calci

Clerk

Coventry Fire District

Board of Directors