

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT
996 MAIN STREET
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
MARCH 12, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

Those present: Board Members: Chairman, David Holt, Vice-Chairman, Pasquale DeBernardo, Georgia Ure, Elwood Johnson, Paul Schaarschmidt; Chief, Fred Stanley; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra; Tax Collector, Sue Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley

Those not present: All in attendance this evening.

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairman, David Holt at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 12th Monthly Board Meeting were presented. Mr. Johnson abstained from the vote since he did not attend the meeting. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, four (4) in favor, one (1) abstained, motion passed unanimously (4-1).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-abstained; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The Tax Collector's report was presented for February 2015. A total of \$661,842.00 or 89.2% has been collected to date. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report for February 2015 was presented. Mr. Johnson inquired as to where the money comes from for the banquet and awards. It was discussed that it comes out of Acct. # 7320 Awards/Meetings. Funding for this usually comes out of the Fire Company and this year from HazMat and Fair funds. Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Treasurer's report as presented and Ms. Ure seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Discussion of the Bids

The bids for the Audit have gone out and are due back by 9 April 2015. The bids received will be reviewed at the next monthly board meeting.

An Invitation to bid for Mowing and Trimming of the grounds for a period of May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2018 will be sent out. Ms. Bok will post and put in the paper. Bids will be due by 11:00 a.m., 7 April 2015.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Chief's report was presented for February 2015. The board discussed the following points of interest:

The Zoning board will be meeting on March 19th at 7:00 p.m. regarding the Cell Tower. The district has submitted a letter to the Zoning Board. It was discussed that good attendance would be recommended; all were encouraged to attend. Chairman Holt indicated that everything that was required of the district has been done, so we should be moving forward on this.

Chief Stanley was suppose to have a meeting with the Speaker of the House, Representative Nicholas Mettiello's, chief legal counsel but did not meet as the Chief was then admitted to the South County Hospital. The speaker's legal council recommended we meet with Rosemary Booth Gallogly, The Director of Finance, who retired the next day and who was said to be the person responsible for house Bill H7944 Substitute A. Susanne Greschner, the Chief

of the Division of Municipal Finance, is now our contact as she is acting in the Director of Finance position until a replacement has been appointed. Chief Stanley will be meeting with her on March 13th. Chief Stanley testified against the three bills currently in legislation. We have responded in writing to the chair of the committee and to each legislature in South County. Representative Kathleen Forgarty has been making an effort to try and defeat it while in committee.

We are concerned with having 2% of the registered voters within the district to conduct and pass the budget at the annual meeting; this would require 80 people to attend for the District's Annual meeting, which would be quite difficult. The other concern is that we could only purchase 2% in any one year of what our actual budget was. In order to buy a Fire Truck or Ladder truck it would take many years to purchase.

Chief Stanley received two (2) quotes for a new Fire Chief vehicle. The first one from Flood Ford and the other from MHQ a (Municipal Bid). Mr. Johnson inquired as to whether or not 93 octane would be a requirement for this vehicle. It was discussed that mid grade would be acceptable. They also discussed whether or not it would be beneficial to lease or buy the vehicle. It was discussed that it might be better to lease, as the taxpayer burden would be spread out over a period of time. Chief Stanley will obtain further information on a lease to see if it would be a viable option. It was discussed that the budget would have the least impact with a lease. The Board of Engineers is still required to input what additional gear would be needed for the vehicle.

The board discussed the Fuel for the year. We should be in good standing for this year with a surplus.

J.R. Joslin and Son replaced a pump at Station 2 as the pipes were overheating, probably due to age.

The Banquet will be coming up soon on March 21st, to be held at The Preserve in Richmond. All reservations should be in.

The district responded to Charberts Mill for a water flow alarm. No one is to enter the building, due to the unsafe structure of the building.

Due to storm damages at Station 1, ice backed up in the gutter; as a result a couple of ceiling tiles need to be repaired.

In regards to the new Verizon Cell tower, a notice has been sent to property owners within 200' to notify them of their intent; this is the 2nd notice for the owners.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Chief's Report for February 2015 and Ms. Ure seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the Chief's report, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE POSITION OF NEW DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF

Fire Chief Qualifications – List of Qualifications required for the position.

Fire Chief Position – Posting of Fire Chief's Position for the District.

Fire Chief Application – Application to apply for the District Fire Chief.

Mr. DeBernardo motioned to post the District Fire Chief's position and qualifications required for the position. Each to be posted at the following locations within the District:

Station 1 – 996 Main Street, Hope Valley, RI 02832

Station 2 – 350 Church Street, Woodriver Junction, RI 02894

Station 3 – Camp Yawgoog, Rockville, RI 02873

With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Mr. DeBernardo motioned to make the District Fire Chief's information be available for pick-up to any one choosing to apply for the vacant position. The forms, to be available for pick up at the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, Station 1, 996 Main Street, Hope Valley, RI. Ms. Ure seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Mr. DeBernardo motioned to make the application for District Fire Chief available to any one choosing to apply for the vacant position. The application, to be available at the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, Station 1, 996 Main Street, Hope Valley, RI. Ms. Ure seconded the motion. Discussion: The board discussed background checks and whether it was listed within the application. It was discussed that it is listed within the qualifications. It is also noted on page 2. "Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense (felony or misdemeanor)?" We will also do a drug test and a criminal background check. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

-April 3rd Resume Deadline.

-Review all applications received at the Board meeting on April 9th. Form the Oral Board, (3 members or 5 will be appointed).

-Members of the Oral Board need to be submitted and approved. We will name the proposed oral board members at the April 9th meeting. After selections, they will be need to meet to go over the questions and receive direction as to what we expect them to do.

-Prior to April 30th written exam is to be taken.

-During the month of May all final applicants will be reviewed before the committee sitting as the oral board.

-During the month of June the committee will make a recommendation and present it to the board.

-The board discussed that they may have four (4) members on the oral board. Their concern was a tie but based on the rubric it would be based on each person's score.

CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming:

1. MHQ 2016 Ford Utility PI AWD vehicle quote for the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District.
2. Notification from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless notifying all Property Owners within two hundred feet of the perimeter of the proposed for a new structure, approximately 100' in height, which will replace the existing wireless structure, which is approximately 85' in height.

Outgoing:

1. Letter from Frederick A. Stanley, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, regarding the 2015 Dorothy Lohmann Community Service Award.
2. Email addressed to Ms. Rina DiBenedetto and Ms. Lori Gelfuso, from Mr. David Holt, Chairperson, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, regarding 2015 Bid Specifications for solicitation for audit services.
3. Invitation to Bid – Mowing & Trimming for the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District.
4. Letter addressed to Mr. Pete Stefanski, from Mr. David Holt, Chairperson, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, regarding Commendation for a Job Well Done and expressing appreciation for his years of service.
5. Posting of Fire Chief Position listing qualifications and how to apply.
6. Information regarding Fire Chief Position, describing definition, salary, and Job Functions.
7. Fire Chief Application for all applicable applicants that would like to be considered for the position.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Board of Engineers recently voted to have the campus smoke and tobacco free.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Ure. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk