

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

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
MAY 12, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Those present: Board Members: Chairperson, Pasquale DeBernardo, Georgia Ure, Paul Schaarschmidt; Chief, Justin Lee; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra; Tax Collector, Susan Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley.

Those not present: Board Members: Elwood Johnson, and John Weeden.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Open Session minutes of the April 14th Monthly Board Meeting were presented. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

The Executive Session minutes of the April 14th Special Board Meeting were presented. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the minutes and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. The minutes are to remain sealed until further notice. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

3. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT – COLLECTED AND OUTSTANDING TAXES

The Tax Collector's report was presented for April 2016 reflecting all collected and outstanding taxes. Ms. Bok reported that as of today, the district has collected \$722,543.26 to date. Ms. Bok also informed the board that Mr. Panciera would not be doing the tax sale this year and has recommended the District work with Ms. Bridget Williams. Ms. Bok passed out an email received from Ms. Bridget Williams from County Title, LLC along with her schedule of Services and Fees. There is no cost to the District as the fees are built into the charges to the people that are in arrears. The board will review these fees and discuss again after further review. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the Tax Collector's report and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

4. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman, Mr. DeBernardo asked the board if we could change the agenda this evening and move New Business up so that Mr. Ed Wood would not have to wait until the end of the meeting. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the change in the agenda and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

Mr. Ed Wood and Mr. Tom Thompson, members of the Hopkinton Land Trust attended this evening to speak to the board. They portrayed to the board that they were looking for better access to Wood River and Brushy Brook by access through the Depot Square Park. They would be looking for access to the river by creating a trail that would begin at the park and go all the way down to the dam. They were considering a path or possibly a boardwalk that would also be handicap accessible. They were thinking that possibly a viewing or fishing platform could be build which would allow people access to the Wood River and Brushy Brook through this trail.

They have spoken to Mr. Mattson regarding access through his property for parking on Mechanic Street. He offered to allow access and permission as long as asked for special events. There is an opportunity to utilize 2014 Recreational Bond funding but in order to do so the application must be submitted for approval by May 27th, 2016, and then it would also have to be approved by the Town Council.

What both Mr. Wood and Mr. Thompson were looking for this evening was to earn the support of the Fire District and gain access. They were also thinking that perhaps summer concerts might be of interest in the future. The board agreed that this venture would be no cost to the District but would only enhance the area. Mr. Wood discussed that the property that they currently have is about 20' from the pavement down to the water. It would require little pavement to make the parking lot better down by Mr. Matteson's property.

Ms. Ure motioned to offer the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District's support in favor and in agreement of the project's proposal and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-ye

5. TREASURER'S REPORT – MONTHLY BILLS & EXPENDITURES

The Treasurer's Report was presented for April 2016. The board reviewed the reports.

Ms. Nicotra indicated to the board that she is still having major payroll issues with the software program and that she is having difficulty finding the proper Technical support to assist in resolving this problem.

The board-reviewed page 4 of the Transaction Detail by Income/Expense Account, Net Income Total in the amount of (-\$45,337.74). It was discussed that this figure represents a snap shot of what occurred in the month, with money that was brought in and what was paid out.

It was also noted that Retired Chief Frederick Stanley was paid for his retirement funds owed and the district is still working on correcting the retirement funds with Captain David Dumsar. Ms. Nicotra informed the board that she received notification that she will be attending another seminar for new reporting requirements for Municipal Retirement.

Ms. Ure motioned to accept the April Treasurer's Report as presented and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

6. CHIEF'S REPORT – EQUIPMENT, BUILDING, SEMINARS

Chief Justin W. Lee's monthly report was presented for April 2016.

Personnel

Firefighter Devan Heroux and his wife just had their first baby, congratulations to the new family! A card was sent from the Board to the new proud parents.

Captain Patrick Hawkins has recently moved into a home on Main Street in Hope Valley, RI. It will be great to have another officer/driver in close proximity to the station.

Budget

Chief Lee has contacted the USDA for information regarding a loan for the ladder truck. At this time, they have the best rate at 2.875%, which is significantly lower than area banks.

Blue Cross Blue Shield figures have not been released as yet.

Vehicle Maintenance

Engine 913 is still having electrical issues. Minuteman had been contacted and a technician replaced another piece of the wiring harness. The difficulty with this issue is that this is a proprietary system that they only know how to repair.

Mr. Schaarschmidt brought to the board's attention that Maintenance of the vehicles has been a very important subject. He discussed that the District has come up with a way to clean the under carriages of the vehicles. The district has come up with a very simple solution. They have taken a 1" galvanized pipe approximately 12' long with a series of holes in it and put a booster coupling on one end and set up an induction system. They attach a hose with a cleansing agent and it lies on the deck of the garage and the truck runs over this piping. The water comes out through the piping with a tremendous amount of pressure and volume. He was quite impressed and found it to be quite a simple solution to clean the under bodies of the vehicles.

Incidents

There was one major incident this month that involved a motorcycle accident at Exit 3. Life Star was needed for transporting the patient. Deputy Brian Champlin and Deputy David Caswell were on the scene. Later, the victim's girlfriend thanked the District for all of their efforts.

Park/Buildings

Chief Lee informed the board that he has contacted several companies for Solar Panels for the Alton Station. A grant may be had to do this, but at this time we are looking into obtaining proposals only. The only concern from the board was whether or not the structure was strong enough to handle it.

The new Lawn mowers have been purchased and are being used. The riding mower is stored at Station 2 and the push mower is being stored in the apparatus room.

Happy Feet Lawn Care has fertilized the park. This is the same company the district used last year. They will be performing the same services with no increase in fee from last year. The cost of this service for the entire season is only \$300.00.

The Cub Scouts have been working on a service project to plant a small garden around the main entrance of Station 2. The project came out very nice.

Verizon Tower

There is no date set for the commencement of the new tower.

Ladder Committee

The last truck for viewing was a Pierce truck. At this time all major manufacturing companies have been viewed. Chief Lee has been looking into Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) group pricing. This makes it an easier process for bid specs, as it is a 400-page document that has already been negotiated. The fee to use this is percentage based. Other districts such as Johnson and Warwick have found this to be very successful. The only manufacturer that is not part of this is Pierce Manufacturing, so they would have to draw up their own specs. By going through FCA pricing, it provides the lowest price. It was discussed whether this was on the State bid list, legally it is authorized.

Ms. Ure motioned to accept the Chief's report for April 2016 and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motioned passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

7. CORRESPONDENCE – INCOMING & OUTGOING

Incoming:

1. Letter addressed to Chief Justin Lee, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, from Congressman Jim Langevin, regarding disaster relief and Federal Aid.
2. Email addressed to Ms. Susan Bok, Tax Collector, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, from Ms. Bridget Williams, Chief Operating Officer, Country Title, LLC, regarding 2016 Tax Sale and Fee Schedule.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

New Ladder Truck

No further discussion this evening.

Charter Committee

The workshop meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 6:00 p.m.

9. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

No appointment of committees this evening.

10. OLD BUSINESS

No old business before the board this evening.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. William Day commented that he felt three (3) Junior Members need recognition. They all have been contributing to the department and have an exemplary attendance record. In addition, they have been recognized for the following:

Mr. Kevin Yeaw for being a member of the National Honor Society

Mr. Zack Oneschuck, State Officer for (FFA) Future Farmer's of America

Mr. Tyler Dumas, RI Division All State Wrestling II

The board will send a note to each of them congratulating them for their contribution to the department and their exemplary attendance.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business before the board this evening.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER RI GENERAL LAWS §42-46-5 (a)(1-10)

No Executive session this evening.

14. ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. by Ms. Ure and seconded by Mr. Schaarschmidt. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk