

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

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Those present: Board Members: Chair, Pasquale DeBernardo, Vice Chair, Elwood Johnson, Georgia Ure (arrived 7:10 p.m.), Paul Schaarschmidt; Chief, Justin Lee; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra; Tax Collector, Susan Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley.

Those not present: Board Member: John Weeden

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chair, Pasquale DeBernardo at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence at which time there was then a five (5) minute recess for the board to review a water washing system that has been created to wash the undersides of the vehicles.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Open Session minutes of the September 8th Monthly Board Meeting were presented. Mr. Johnson 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; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

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

The Tax Collector's report was presented for September 2016 reflecting all collected and outstanding taxes. A total of \$672,061.97 has been collected to date or approximately 85% of taxes owed for the year. The board discussed the property located at 106 Canochet Road in reference to their back taxes and current taxes; Ms. Bok reported that they are paid and up to date. The board also inquired about Boulder Hills and Ms. Bok stated that taxes were still owed for this property, they owe for 2 years and 3 years for the tangibles. Ms. Bok will provide to the board a report specifying the details and present it at the next meeting or sooner.

Mr. Schaarschmidt motioned to accept the Tax Collector's report as presented and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schmarschmidt-yes

4. TREASURER'S REPORT – MONTHLY BILLS & EXPENDITURES

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

The board inquired about Acct. # 6110 – Truck for Minuteman Trucks, Inc. in the amount of \$913.93. Chief Lee explained that it was for Engine 916 due to electronic issues. The board discussed the trophies for the award winners of the poster contest. Chief Lee indicated to the board that the trophies were paid for by the district and were not donated. Ms. Ure questioned the bill on the report for URE outfitters under Acct. # 6130 – Portable Equip in the amount of \$36.10. It was indicated that this was a payment/reimbursement for shipping on their UPS account. Ms. Ure stated that she would like to pull that one bill and abstain from the one URE bill. After further discussion, she decided that she would abstain from the vote entirely on the acceptance of the Treasurer's report.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Treasurer's report as presented and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, motion passed with three (3) in favor and one (1) abstained.

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

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

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

Equipment/Vehicles

Engine 916 had some electronic issues that needed repair. During the annual inspection it was noted that new tires and bushings would be needed. Captain David Dumsar is providing maintenance to anything that can be done in house.

Since we have started our new maintenance reporting procedure a year ago, we have filed over 130 slips that have been filed and completed. It's a great way to track our progress.

Park/Buildings

The park will be winterized shortly for the sprinkler system.

Verizon Tower

The Verizon tower has been progressing. When they drilled a test hole they hit ledge, which then required a machine to break up the ledge. The concrete pads will be poured which will consist of 45 yards of concrete at approximately \$100.00/yd. Chief Lee indicated that they are a good group of contractors to work with.

Open House

Open House will be on Sunday, October 16th from 10 am to 12 pm. Mr. Schaarschmidt recommended that all board members, if possible, make an appearance especially with the recruitment of new members. If any questions should arise, by wearing the district shirts each board member could easily be identified. Awards will also be presented to the winners of the poster contest.

During open house, we will also have a recruitment tent, which was just ordered through the SAFER grant program. Chief Lee commented that it is very impressive with a custom designed tent, backdrop, and table liner that provides a real presence to the district.

Mr. DeBernardo suggested that he would like to get another photo of the Board members and frame it, as this will be the 35th year.

Ms. Ure suggested that perhaps a cleaning could be done in the recreational room and suggested the rug be steamed prior to open house.

With the recent passing of former member, Mr. Eugene Edwards, the Diamond T was used to transport Mr. Edwards to the burial, and the apparatus room was utilized for the collation afterwards. The family was very impressed with the district for their assistance and was deeply grateful to all the officers and fire fighters who helped honor Eugene.

Dime Bank agreed to work with the district if the USDA loan does not come through. The USDA's year just started and we were informed that we were first on the list.

Chariho School District awarded the fuel contract to Superior Fuel out of Providence and we were again able to be part of that agreement. The price will be from the Port of Providence with a fixed add on of \$0.0779 for two (2) years beginning October 26, 2016 and ending on October 26, 2018.

The board reviewed the Rental agreement for the rental of Station 2 in Alton. The board discussed the event clarification of renting where no activities that are of a business nature would be allowed to charge a fee for "Profit". The board reviewed the agreement and inquired as to what the cost of cleaning would be? It was discussed that Captain David Dumsar would be doing the cleaning at a rate of approximately \$25.00.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Chief's report for September 2016 and Ms. Ure and Mr. Schaarschmidt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motioned passed unanimously (4-0).

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

6. CORRESPONDENCE – INCOMING & OUTGOING

Incoming:

1. Memo addressed to Dawn LaPierre, Superior Plus Energy Services, Inc. from Ms. Susan T. Rogers, Chariho Regional School District, regarding Bid Award for Fuel Oil Bid.
2. Letter addressed to the Board of Directors from Mr. William Day resigning from the Charter Committee.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Ladder Truck Committee

The committee met with the sales representative over some items that required further discussion. The drawing should be done and then it will go to the factory. Chief Lee will then meet with the representative at which time we will then have a price and be ready to order the Rosenbauer truck.

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

No appointment of committees this evening.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Charter Committee

Chair, Mr. DeBernardo moved to take the resignation of Mr. William Day and put it back on the table. Mr. Schaarschmidt motioned to have the resignation of Mr. William Day be put back on the table for further discussion and Mr. Johnson seconded that motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (4-0).

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

Mr. DeBernardo indicated that at the time of the last meeting he had asked a member of the board to recuse oneself but felt it would not be necessary to do so and would like to apologize to that member.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the resignation of Mr. William Day from the Charter committee due to a personal issue that had nothing to do with the district and Ms. Ure seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (4-0).

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

Mr. DeBernardo stated that currently we have two (2) members from the General Public and would like to have one (1) additional person join the committee. The board agreed to advertise for a third member by posting notices around town as well as posting it to our website.

10. NEW BUSINESS

The Land Trust and the music committee have presented that they would like the approval of the board to put up a Christmas tree in the park this year at no cost to the district. The consensus of the board was in full agreement of placing a Christmas tree in the park this year.

It was also presented that the members of the St. Joseph's Youth choir would like to sing during the lighting ceremony. This event will be called, "Christmas in the Park" and is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 4th.

The Christmas party for the District is scheduled for December 10th and will be held at the Richmond Country Club.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. William Day reiterated that he would not be re-applying for the Charter committee.

He also discussed with the board that he felt the board needed to have someone from the Ethics committee present to the board the Open Meetings laws. He felt that the board had violated the Ethics committee rules on open meetings law due to the fact that Ms. Ure abstained from voting on the Treasurer's report presented this evening, which included the URE \$36.10 bill as presented in the Treasurer's Report. He stated that by the rulings of the Ethics committee she has to recuse herself, she has to file a form from the State and the district clerk is to retain that form on record. He stated that he loves this fire district but feels that abstaining does not recuse oneself to cover them or the fire district. He would like the board to be educated on this subject matter as well as the Board of Engineers. The board discussed that they would take it under advisement and if needed would have someone present further information to the board.

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 7:46 p.m. by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Ure. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (4-0).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk