

Manville Fire District – Minutes December 9, 2014

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2014

Time of Meeting: 7:00pm

Place of Meeting: Manville Fire Department

112 Old Main Street

Manville, RI 02838

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Lead by Chairman Lake

2. Roll Call of Officers-

Present – Warden Paul McKeon

Warden James Akers

Warden Jerry St Germaine

Chairman Robert Lake

Chief Peter Adam

Clerk Lee Lamothe

Absent – Warden Ron McKenna

3. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes

Warden Mckeon makes a motion to accept the minutes of the November 18 regular meeting as they are presented. Second by Warden St Germain. Approved 4 – 0 – 1 (McKenna)

4. Reports

a. Chairman Report & Communications – Chairman talks about multiple articles that have been printed recently in the local papers

about the Manville Fire District. Chairman Lake says he has responded to Joe Almond's comments in the paper and he invited him to attend tonight's meeting. Due to other commitments he could not attend. He offered to meet with the board personally. Chairman Lake also says that there may be another lawsuit filed in Superior Court dated back to 2012 but our lawyer was unable to find that it had been properly served or recorded with the court at this time. This could increase the lawyers' bills in the future.

b. Tax receipts and deposits were made last week. Tax Collector McKenna is going to review the problems that had occurred with the bills.

c. Chief report – Chairman tells the audience that there are several copies of this information available for their review. The Chief presents his report and tells the Chairman we now have 30 volunteers.

Motion made by Warden St Germaine and Second by Warden McKeon. Approved 4-0-1 (McKenna)

d. Auditors report – No Auditors report

4. Payment of Bills

Chairman Lake says he will be happy to explain line items if the wardens have any questions.

Motion made by Warden St Germaine to pay the bills in the amount of \$11534.07. Warden McKeon asks about the ebola training and the Chief explains that it is ongoing training. Warden McKeon seconds.

Payment of Bills Approved 4-0-1 (McKenna)

**5. Income- Total of \$84.00 of income for smoke detection and plans.
Motion made by Warden Akers and second by Warden McKeon to
approve the income report.**

Approved 4-0-1 (McKenna)

6. Old Business –

a. Policies and Procedures - Chairman Lake tells the audience that he has asked the board to review the purchasing policy and the access to public records policy. The Chairman asks the audience to state their name before any questions, as a new procedure. Warden St Germaine moves to approve the policies and Warden Mckeon seconds. The Chair mentions that the treasurer/tax collector and the chief wanted some input on the purchasing policy so Warden St Germaine withdraws his motion to approve until the treasurer returns and makes a motion to table until next meeting. Seconded by Warden Mckeon. Approved 4-0-1 (Mckenna)

b. Ladder truck update & discussion – Report from Chief and Purchasing Agent Lake

Chief says that KME said they cannot design a truck to fit in our station and wont be submitting a proposal. The Sutphen rep has been back to the station several times to get additional measurements but has not gotten back to us yet. Smeal is looking to sell the American LaFrance truck to another interested party, Lake told Smeal “we were not ready to make a decision at this time and they should consider

their best option.”

c. ADA Building Study – Update

Chairman Lake says that we are studying various options to improve building accessibility. We are currently in compliance but we should continue to review this in order to make access to the building better.

d. Attorney communication

Chairman Lake states that activity has escalated based on recent correspondence which may or may not be real. The most recent AG’s finding were favorable but costly because our attorneys involvement.

e. Appreciation event

Chairman Lake tells the audience that an appreciation dinner for all MFD volunteers was approved by the board last month for under \$600. The Chief was appointed planner and says that this event will most likely occur in January.

7. New business

a. Chairman Lake mentions the communication from Ken Block addressed to Chief Adam with regards to a Public Records request to provide information in response to approximately 50 questions.

Chair said may need to review this request with our attorney.

8. Public Comment

The Chair acknowledges Paul Armstrong - Mr. Armstrong questions the invoice for quarterly testing for the station fire alarm system. The chief explains that it is a once a year payment for required quarterly testing. Mr. Armstrong is adamant it is labeled incorrectly on the expense report. Mr. Armstrong talks about 2012 Chairman Lake asks

him to keep it current. He then questions the 4, now 3 fire truck companies that are willing to bid on the truck and he wants to know if the ladders will be external on Sutphen's proposal? The chief says he doesn't know because he doesn't have the final proposals yet. Mr. Armstrong says he will let it go at that for now. Mr. Armstrong then brings up again (this was brought before the board at the November meeting) that the tax rolls used by the district were incorrect and he doesn't understand how this happened and blames the district. Chairman Lake explains that the Tax Collector told Mr. Armstrong last month he would look into it but Ron is not here tonight.

Steven Kerns asks about the legal fees and wonders if we can get an itemized breakdown of the invoices. Chairman Lake says we can't because this is discoverable and is related to litigation. Mr. Kerns also asks if he can get a copy of the proposed policies discussed previously tonight? The Chairman says you can't find it on our web page but the clerk can email him the current policies.

He asks if we will have another voter meeting before a new truck is purchased? The Chair indicated there will be a public meeting in this regard.

9. Motion to Adjourn

. Motion by Warden St Germaine and second by Warden McKeon.

Public comment by Town Counselor Ken Pichette, speaks after the motion to adjourn telling the audience that the MFD is using the

opportunity to purchase a new truck without considering the effects that the town consolidation of fire districts might have. He feels that the MFD Board/Department is abusing the taxpayer's money by filling all the board positions and public votes with family and friends in order to get the truck passed. He also complains that there has to be some sort of violation to have one person be the Tax Collector, Treasurer and Warden, he plans will look into this issue. He recognized previously mentioned advisory opinion by ethics committee received by Warden McKenna before he was elected as Warden.

Paul Armstrong suggested that the Board table should be set up differently so the audience is not looking at the back of the wardens and clerks heads.

Motion by Warden St Germaine and second by Warden McKeon motion to adjourn, Approved 4- 0-1(McKenna)

Date Agenda Posted: 12.6.14 @ 3:30 pm by Lee L.

Date of Meeting: 12/9/14

Date posted on SOS: 12/6/14 @ 3:30 pm_

Posted 12/7/14 MFD Station, Manville Post Office, Lincoln Town Hall

Minutes submitted to Board: 1/13/15

Approved Minutes posted on SOS: 02/08/2015 10:05 am

____Bob Lake_____

____Lee

Lamothe _____

Chairman

Clerk