

# **Central Coventry Fire District**

## **Board of Directors**

**December 18, 2007 - 7:00 pm**

**Central Coventry Fire Station 4**

### **Minutes**

**1. Call to Order – 7:03 pm**

**2. Roll Call**

**President: Girard Bouchard – VP: Joe Bonn**

**Robert Crowe - Anna Mae Lapinski - Linda Giguere - Ron Gizzarelli  
- Elaine Hunt**

**Clerk: Tracy Hall**

**Treasurer: Tom LaColle**

**Tax Collector – Jeanne Graemiger**

**Chief Seltzer - Asst. Chief Tucker**

**Additional People present:**

**Lt. Gorman, F/F Stevens, Lt. Hall, Lt. Dion, F/F Tellier, Bat Chief  
Fontaine**

**Richard Blade**

**3. Election Results**

**Mr. Bouchard covered information provided by the Clerk regarding  
when and how the meeting on 11/16/2007 was posted in addition to**

information from the Attorney General's Open Meetings website. The meeting was properly posted. The three new Directors are Linda Giguere, Ronald J Gizzarelli and Elaine Hunt.

#### **4. Swearing in of New Board Members**

The three new Directors, Linda Giguere, Ronald J Gizzarelli and Elaine Hunt were sworn in by the District Clerk Tracy Hall.

#### **5. Election of President & Vice President**

Mr. Crowe nominates Girard Bouchard for President. Ms. Lapinski seconds the nomination.

No other nominations. Clerk cast one vote for Mr. Bouchard.

Mr. Bouchard nominates Joseph Bonn for Vice President. Ms. Lapinski seconds the nomination.

No other nominations. Clerk cast one vote for Mr. Bonn.

#### **6. Approval of Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting – 11/20/07**

**Motion: Anna Mae Lapinski    Seconded: Linda Giguere**

**All Vote Aye**

#### **7. Old Business**

Property Appraisal – per Chief Seltzer in progress.

#### **8. President's Report**

Mr. Bouchard and Chief Seltzer met with the Board at Coventry Fire District (Anthony) in regards to a possible merger. There were a lot of

questions on both sides. The results of the meeting were that the lines of communication will be kept open. They are planning a meeting for 1/7/2008. There will be Union representation on both sides at the meeting in January.

Mr. Bouchard read three thank you letters. Exeter Volunteer Fire Dept #1 thanked us for use of our Fire Prevention Trailer. Coventry High School Student Council thanks us for our participation in the Homecoming Parade. The Alzheimer's Association thanks us for our donation on behalf of Richard (Jimmy) St. Jean.

**Motion: Robert Crowe    Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski**

**There was some discussion of the President's Report  
All Vote Aye**

## **9. Chief's Report**

Chief presented his report. He also has copies of the Tax Collector's report as she has family coming in from out of the country and won't be at the meeting tonight.

**Motion: Linda Giguere    Seconded: Ron Gizzarelli**

**All Vote Aye**

**Three items in the Chief's Report that require action:**

**Approval of recommended candidates for hire: Ryan Garrahan & Peter Fratantuono.**

**Motion: Girard Bouchard Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski**

**All Vote Aye**

**Mr. Bouchard agrees with the recommendation of Chief Seltzer to set up a committee to look into the issue of the tiered pay scale. Mr. Bonn was on the original committee and will serve on this one with Mrs. Giguere. Mr. Gorman is to set up a meeting with the committee and report back next month.**

**The last item from the Chief's Report is establishing a Capital line item in the budget. Mr. Bouchard asked for information and discussion. Chief Seltzer would like to see a policy created to put aside an amount on a regular basis. Washington, Tiogue and Central all did it in the past. It seemed to work out well. Mr. LaColle said that in Washington the Rescue Recovery monies were not included in the budget and were then available for any major purchases without increasing the tax rate. There was some discussion of this issue. The issue will be looked at again for the next budget.**

#### **10. Treasurer's Report**

**Accepted as Presented**

**Motion: Anna Mae Lapinski Seconded: Ron Gizzarelli**

**All Vote Aye**

#### **11. Tax Collector's Report**

**Chief Seltzer presented the Tax Collector's Report as Mrs. Graemiger was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. LaColle explained the Low Income Tax Credit. The person who had applied for this credit does**

not qualify. There was some discussion how the Low Income Tax Credit is applied. The suggestion was made to create our own Low income Tax Relief Resolution to be presented at the next annual meeting.

A letter was received in regards to the sale of property at 40 Sharon Dr. Prior to the closing the Tax Collector's office provided incorrect information regarding the amount of tax due and now there is interest due of \$15.92. They are requesting the interest be abated because of the incorrect info received.

**Motion to abate \$15.92 of interest on 40 Sharon Dr**

**Motion: Anna Mae Lapinski    Seconded: Linda Giguere**

**All Vote Aye**

**Motion to accept the Tax Collector's report**

**Motion: Linda Giguere    Seconded: Robert Crowe**

**All Vote Aye**

## **12. New Business**

Mr. Bouchard received two letters from Local 3372, both were dated December 7, 2007. The first one was to inform the District Board they were filing a grievance under Article 2 Section 11 because they had not received the clothing allowance. Within 24 hours this issue had been resolved. There was some discussion regarding how the clothing allowance is normally distributed. The delay in providing the clothing allowance was due to the fact that there was a delay in

receiving money from the tax collector's office because the tax bills went out late. The issue has been settled.

Additionally, Local 3372 has some issues they would like to bring to the Board. Lt. Gorman met with Chief Seltzer and Asst Chief Tucker and met with the membership of the Local. About the same time Mr. Bouchard and Chief Seltzer met with the Coventry Fire District in regards to a merger. The membership wants to have a voice in any negotiations with CFD to insure the CCFD firefighters are taken care of. Lt Gorman has spoken to Mr. Bouchard and the Union has been invited to future meetings with the Coventry Fire District. The membership also has some other issues they wanted to bring to the Board. The last time the fire alarm at Station 5 was brought up there was not enough money in the budget for it. Turnout gear and SCBA breathing apparatus need replacing. Chief Seltzer is waiting to hear on some grant money. There is also an issue with the tiered pay schedule.

There was some discussion regarding needing better communications to possibly head off problems or grievances before they start. Lt. Gorman said that there were going to be regular meetings with Chief Seltzer, Asst Chief Tucker and the executive board of Local 3372 to do this. Chief Seltzer added that the first meeting would be the Wednesday after New Year's at 7:30 am and another would be scheduled for 2 weeks after that.

**Mr. Bouchard met with Lt. Gorman at Chief Seltzer's Office and signed the MOU. They also had a good discussion then. Lt. Gorman added that things are a lot better than they were 2-3 weeks ago with issues being addressed.**

**Chief Seltzer commented that one of the problems is sometimes things happen so fast that he doesn't have answers to give. But, with better communication problems can be avoided.**

**Mr. Gizzarelli questioned if the merger plan would come to the rest of the Board before any decisions were made. Mr. Bouchard replied that any plans would have to come before the whole board for a decision and then would have to go before the taxpayers for their decision.**

**Mr. Gorman asked where in the process is the merger. Mr. Bouchard replied that no decisions were made about anything. This was a first meeting to open discussions. There was some discussion regarding the process of a merger and protecting the interests of our employees.**

### **13. Introduction of new business to be considered at the next Board Meeting**

**Chief Seltzer asked that the Administrative/Human Resources position be put on the agenda for discussion and action.**

### **14. Adjournment – 8:40 pm**

**Motion: Robert Crowe    Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski**

**All Vote Aye**