

**Central Coventry Fire District
Board of Directors Budget Workshop
September 27, 2011 – 7:00 pm
240 Arnold Road**

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

President: Girard Bouchard Jr.

Vice President: Joe Bonn

**Directors: – Bob Crowe – Linda Giguere – Ronald Gizzarelli -Anna
Mae Lapinski, Armond Niquette**

Treasurer: Tom Lacolle

Tax Collector: Jeanne Graemiger

Clerk: Christine Moniz

Chief : Robert W. Seltzer

Asst. Chief – Scott Tucker

Union President Dave Gorman

Not Present: V.P. Bonn, Director Gizzarelli

3. Budget Workshop – The President explained that tonight’s meeting is a budget workshop and that will be to only subject on the agenda.

The Chief went over the new budget and read aloud the figures for the new 2011/2012 fiscal year. He went over the breakdown of the proposed budget. The spreadsheet that was distributed was the final figures that Tom Lacolle had calculated.

Along with going over the budget the Chief had three proposals that he wanted to discuss for consideration.

Proposal (1) - propose a auto tax with a home stead exemption.

Proposal (2) – reduce the line of credit and pay off in two years

Proposal (3) – possible change in taxing a residential property that is combined with commercial. As of now it is taxed commercial the district can look into a combination rate where commercial has also residential attached.

The Board discussed the new proposed budget and they also went over the new assessment values along with the new proposed commercial rates and the new proposed residential rates.

The Chief explained that we lost 45% commercial tax base. The Tax Collector was instructed to print out a list of commercial business

that the value went down and also business that went up. So the Chief went and figured out the loss in revenue per business. The Chief went over the commercial assessment from last year it went down by 45% when in average it goes down only about 12% town wide.

Discussion also with the tax collector and the treasurer on how to determine if the property is commercial or if it is residential. There is confusion on empty lots. The tax collector will go over the commercial rates and assessments again to ensure the numbers are correct.

The President then asked if anyone has any questions on the Budget and a member of the public asked what was the debt reimbursement and what is it that we owe. The President stated that our debt reimbursement is our tax anticipations loans that we are paying back.

Mr. Blais wanted to know what is the cost is for the union in the new year and wanted to know how we went over budget in overtime and how the District is going to control the overtime in the new fiscal year. The President explained that the overtime was due to on the job injuries and it was out of our hands. Also, the result of retirements and filling in vacant spots.

There was also a question asked by a member of the public as to why we purchased a tower ladder. The Chief explained what the needs were, how it was already used at a mill fire and that our old ladder

failed the ladder test and we had to place it out of service.

The President asked the Board members if they have any questions on the budget. Director Lapinski and Director Crowe wanted to know if there were any line items that we can cut. Director Crowe wanted to know how we could cut down on the overtime.

Tom Lacolle mentioned that we could also look into getting an industrial rate the way Anthony Fire. The Chief will look into this type of rate

President Bouchard called for a motion to adopt the budget to propose at the Annual Meeting. Motion made by Director Crowe to adopt the budget and voted on at the Annual Meeting Seconded by Director Niquette

All Vote Aye with one nay from Director Lapinski

Motion is accepted.

Motion made by President Bouchard to adopt the new tax rate \$ 2.70 for residential, \$4.69 for commercial, \$5.19 for tangible. Motion was seconded by Director Giguere

All voted Aye

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. by Director Giguere and Seconded by Director Lapinski

All Voted Aye