

**Central Coventry Fire District  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
April 17, 2012 – 7:00 pm  
240 Arnold Road**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order – 7:08 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**

**Acting Tax Collector: Loraine Houle**

**Clerk: Christine Moniz**

**Chief : Robert W. Seltzer**

**Union President Dave Gorman**

**Also in attendance - members of the public**

**Not Present: V.P. Joe Bonn, Linda Giguere, Tom LaColle**

**4. Approval of Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting –  
02/21/2012, 03/13/2012**

**Motion to accept the minutes – Director Lapinski      Seconded by  
Director Niquette**

**All Vote Aye**

**5. Communications – none**

**6. Old Business – Proposals for the Audit.    The Chief mailed out ten requests for proposals to local accountant firms and we received back two. The District is looking to conduct an Audit that will meet all of the guidelines established by the IRS. The Chief passed out one copy of a proposal and will mail out the second one before next month's meeting. The Chief reviewed the basics of what the audit would entail and discussed what we need to get everything up to date. Director Crowe asked if this is something that the Board could review first then discuss at the next meeting. The President agreed and would like the Board to review the packets and table discussion until the next meeting held in May. The President advised the clerk to place the discussion of the Audit on next month's agenda.**

**7. Presidents Report – The Chief and I attended a meeting for the Strategic Planning Committee. They will report to the Board in May. The Chief and the President met with Representative Nune's about**

**the Tax Cap. We have received an invoice for street light removal from National Grid and it is in the amount of \$29,000.00. We will work it into the Budget and we should start to see a savings in next years' street lighting bill. I visited the tax office and all seems to be going very well and no complaints. I attended an overview of incident command structure that was presented by RIEMA presented by FEMA and received some good information from that. We had a merge meeting it went well. The Chief and I attended a hearing at the State House in regards to the Nune's bill and it may get revised before it goes to the House.**

**Motion to Accept the Presidents report – motion made by Director Niquette Seconded by Gizzarelli**

**All Vote Aye**

**8. Chiefs report - Lt. Stevens is still out on injury to his knee. Jean Graemiger is out permanently as per her note from her doctor.**

**The Tax Office is going well and things are running smoothly.**

**Update on the Charter Changes - the Representatives are working with legislative counsel to complete the new wording and it will then proceed for hearings.**

**Automatic Payment System paperwork is in process so that we can have the system in place for the next tax cycle.**

**President Bouchard and I attended a hearing at the State House on Thursday, March 29th regarding Representative Nune's Bill H7883 that would have placed a progressive tax cap on the four Coventry Fire Districts. The bill was held for further study.**

**Consolidation talks with Anthony – A meeting of the committee was held on Tuesday, March 20th. We went through a list of items that were addressed in the last consolidation and picked out those items pertinent to these talks. The resulting list became our actions items. The Chief then went over some of the comments from our Special Meeting that certain members of the public do not want the Coventry Fire District and the Central Coventry Fire District to continue with talks of consolidation.**

**Chief Labbaddia presented a proposal "ideas" of a consolidated department. It was unfortunately perceived as how we are structured today. This was a written document that was also shared with two members of the public. This document was distributed to some members at the Coventry Town Hall which was then emailed to members of the public. This is being mentioned to the Board because we have received phone calls inquiring if this "proposed idea" was our actual organization structure. I explained that it was not. The Board needs to be aware that they might get asked some questions and it is based on misleading and misinformed members of the public.**

**Motion to Accept the Chiefs report – motion made by Director Lapinski Seconded by Director Crowe**

**All Vote Aye**

**Director Gizzarelli wanted to add a footnote to the comments about the consolation meeting. There seems to have been a political move at our Special Meeting to place a stop between the two Districts discussion on a merger. He feels that this would only benefit the public. Mr. Gizzarelli wanted to know if there was something he missed that would cause a few members of the public not to continue with the discussions.**

**9. Treasurer's Report - The Chief went over the report and it had the frozen numbers but the Chief stated that we need to change the line items but not the overall budget. The adjustments were made based on what we actually spent. So the May report will have the most updated numbers.**

**Motion to Accept the Treasurers Report – motion made by Director Crowe to accept with the corrections. Seconded by Director**

**Gizzarelli**

**All Vote Aye**

**10. Tax Collector's Report – Loraine went over the numbers in the report that was presented to the Board and also the adjustments that the office had to make. She also reported that we have collected back taxes from 2001-2010. That was a big adjustment on uncollected taxes. The overall difference on collecting the back taxes is the notice that the Tax Office sent out and also the agreements that were made to ease the burden on the tax payer. Loraine provided a copy of the notice in the packet.**

**Loraine also requested that the Board make an adjustment to a piece of property due to the fact the house burned down. No one lives there and we cannot find the address to mail a notice to the son.**

**She also went over hardest hit RI. It is a program that pays back taxes. She will look into it further and report back at next months meeting.**

**The final notice for back taxes just went out and they have until the end of May. But the Chief said if they are sticking to the payment plan they have until the end of June. If they make sure they stick to the plan they will not go to tax sale.**

**Motion to Accept the Tax Collectors Report – motion made by Director Lapinski Seconded by Director Niquette**

**All Vote Aye**

**11. New Business – Set a meeting for the committee to review the Chiefs and Deputy Chief job descriptions. The committee, that consists of Director Crowe, Director Niquette, the Chief, President of the Board and the Union President. The will meet on May 8th at 7:00 p.m. This is just a fact finding committee.**

**12. Introduction of new business- Presentation of the Strategic Plan for the Firefighters. The President instructed that it be added to the next month agenda.**

**13. Good and Welfare – Director Gizzarelli would like to know if we are going write a position paper as far as where the District stands and mail it out to the residents.**

**14. Motion made to convene into executive session 7:55 p.m. by Director Lapinski, Seconded by Director Gizzarelli. A roll call vote was taken and Directors Crowe, Lapinski, Gizzarelli, Niquette and President Bouchard voted aye to move into executive session at 7:55 p.m.**

**15. Motion made to return to open session and seal the minutes of the Executive session at 8:46 p.m. Motion by Director Crowe and Seconded by Director Lapinski.**

**16. Motion made to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. by Director Lapinski and  
Seconded by Director Crowe.**

**All Vote Aye**