

Central Coventry Fire District

Board Meeting

September 24, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

1670 Flat River Rd.

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

President: Fred P. Gralinski

Vice President: Marie Baker

**Directors: – Cynthia A. Fagan-Perry- Excused, Robert G. Hadley-
Excused, Maureen K. Jendzejec, Daniel K. Lantz Jr., Helen G. Quinn**

Treasurer:

Tax Collector:

Clerk: Christine Moniz

Chief: Andrew J. Baynes

President of the Union Dave Gorman

Legal Counsel Dave Dagostino

Also in attendance - members of the public, and Fire Department

Approve the minutes from 09/11/2013 and 09/18/2013

Motion made to table the minutes from 09/11/2013 & 09/18/2013

**Motion made by Director Jendzejec and Seconded by Director Hadley
All Voted Aye.**

Committee Reports

Equipment and Facilities – No report

Finance Committee Report – Director Hadley would like to make a motion to keep the three stations that are closed to remain closed for another year. There was no discussion on the motion there was no second to the motion but all voted Aye.

2nd motion made by Director Hadley was with the approval of the Special Master and the Judge that there be no capital expenditures in the next year. 2013/2014. A member of the public noted that this is something that needs to go into the budget. If you have in the budget not to open the stations and no capital spending and the budget passes then you do not need to make a motion. Director Hadley stated it would be too late. President Gralinski agreed with the member of the public and asked for a second. With no one seconding the motion it did not pass. Director Hadley was asked if he had anything further to report he stated no.

Alternative Planning Committee – The Judge asked to start looking at the plan. President Gralinski asked V.P. Baker if she has an updated

report she stated she will put something together for next week and take a look at the options.

By-Law Committee Report- Director Fagan-Perry was excused from the meeting so tonight there will be no report.

Chief's report – The Chief was excused from the meeting due to a class. There will be not report.

Tax Collector's Report and Update – we have collected 1,274,214 cash on hand is 568,409 credits that will roll onto the new tax roll is 85,622 and total uncollected is 701,499 as of today. President also noted that along with what we have collected that we also have expenses of about 120,000 per week.

Motion to accept the tax collector's report made by V.P. Baker and seconded by Director Quinn.

All Voted Aye.

President Gralinski stated now comes the power point presentation from V.P. Baker to show a little bit of the past and where we are today. Also, the alternative plan and some of the Charter Changes that they may propose at a later date. The following is the presentation:

**CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
PRESENTATION.**

WHERE ARE WE NOW

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS

It is an Organization Formed by the People of the Central Coventry District

Our Mission Statement:

To provide excellent

Fire and Rescue services to the people that live in CCFD

A Charter was written by “the people”, so that this Organization could be run effectively to offer the people, the best possible Fire and Rescue Services.

In order for any business or organization to stay in operation it has to be run efficiently.

SPENDING EFFICIENTLY

EFFICIENT BUDGET SPENDING

MEANS BUYING THE BEST GOODS OR SERVICES,

FOR THE MOST REASONABLE COST

SPENDING MONEY EFFICIENTLY

EXAMPLE – RUNNING A BUSINESS:

STAFFING A HOSPITAL YOU WANT TO HIRE THE BEST SURGEONS, BUT YOUR HOSPITAL REVENUE IS LIMITED.

YOU CAN'T HIRE THE MOST EXPENSIVE EVEN THOUGH YOU WOULD LIKE TO. YOU NEED MONEY FOR OTHER EXPENSES SUCH AS EQUIPMENT THE SURGEONS NEED TO OPERATE.

BANDAIDS

In the Past-There has been a Lack of Spending Efficiency

There was a lack of Spending Efficiency by the X-Chief of this Organization.

There was a lack of financial transparency on the part of the Board of Directors.

Outside Audits were not performed, which would have helped them control the spending.

We have also found that there are loopholes in our Charter that need to be closed in order to operate more effectively.

Some of these loop holes allowed the Mismanagement of spending on contracts and loans that were entered into, that pushed this Organization into bankruptcy

This Board has performed a study and we have a list of proposed changes that will be submitted for review and vote by the people.

A Special meeting will be organized after the Annual Meeting to review and vote on these.

The goal of these changes is to make sure that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past and that our Organization is run by the Vote of the Central Coventry Residents and managed by the Board of Directors.

NOTE: This was corrected by President Gralinski after the presentation that the Board has not performed a study and they have

not met as a Board officially to discuss Charter changes. The suggestions and ideas were done prior to them becoming elected. So there have been no meetings to put together a Charter Review. They will not do so until after the Special Meeting.

TO RUN THIS BUSINESS

WE NEED FIRE AND RESCUE TRUCKS

AND WE NEED SKILLED FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL

- In the last 4 years, no long range plan was ever established to create a fund, to save for equipment that would become obsolete.**
- Expensive Equipment was purchased without the consideration that these purchases would limit what funds would be available to replace other Equipment reaching the end of it's useful life in the years that followed.**
- Here we are now, in need of Equipment with no money or loaning ability to purchase it.**
- We need a plan to purchase Fire and Rescue trucks.**

Cost Analysis

Salaries and Operating Costs

REVENUE

Besides Tax collections used to fund this district

– we collect Rescue money to cover expenses.

If a homeowner calls for a CCFD Rescue, you are currently billed and the home owner submits this bill to their Healthcare Insurance or to

their Home Owner's insurance company for payment. That money is paid by the insurance company to CCFD. That is the Rescue Recovery money CCFD Collects.

How many times have you had to call for Fire or Rescue assistance ?

I have made one call for a Rescue in the 27 years that I've lived in CCFD

The one bill I had to submit to my insurance company did Not increase my rates

YEAR	2012	2011	2010	2009
Residential	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.72
Commercial	3.62	3.62	3.62	3.32
Tax Revenue				
+ Rescue \$\$				
	\$5,623,521	\$5,558,989	\$5,251,805	\$4,803,758
Salary Expenses				
	\$5,441,839	\$5,058,283	\$4,803,465	\$3,864,082
What \$\$				
was left	\$181,682	\$500,706	\$448,340	\$939,676
Operating				
	\$1,179,829	\$1,138,663	\$968,517	\$1,017,907
Loss				
	(\$997,998)	(\$637,957)	(\$520,177)	(\$78,231)

Salary Expense rose by 37% over the last 4 years

Salary Exp.

\$ Increase

% increase

What Other Options are there?

Charter Changes are necessary to create a different model.

Volunteers

Pay on Call Firefighters

Outside EMT Services

- **Firefighters need Firefighter #1 training and other Driving and Hazmat classes- but training is available at local Fire Districts if it's not available in ours.**
- **EMT Rescue Services**
- **In the EMT Rescue Service business there are two certifications an EMT can hold.**
- **The highest certification an EMT can earn is a Paramedic certification**
- **The next lower certification an EMT can earn is a Cardiac certification**

Collective Bargaining

As we move forward, we need everyone involved in this process to be aware that there are other Fire Companies successfully providing the same services but doing it at a much lower cost.

Operations in CCFD needs to understand that while their services are

valuable, Tax Payers- are not willing to pay more than what other towns are paying. They don't want to pay for the most expensive business model CCFD is presenting to them.

Reviewing the rates the Tax Payers have voted down, and we need to consider what Reasonable rate they will approve.

Once that rate is set, the Operations Management of this District must make sure that the contract costs and loans that exist, cannot exceed what that Rate/Total Revenue is.

We need to Level Fund the Budget.

That is what needs to be achieved if our common goal is to continue to operate CCFD under its current charter.

- Currently we are reviewing the Chief's Budget Request**
- If the Board believes that the Tax Payer/Voters of this town will not agree to the Tax Rate required to meet the Chief's Expense Budget – the Board will discuss with the Chief and make adjustments to it.**
- Then the Board will present a “reasonable” budget to Judge Sterns for his Approval as he requested. This budget rate that we will present to you for a Vote-will be based on our research as to what it costs to purchase Quality Fire and EMT Services to offer Safety to the District.**
- What the Voters and Tax payers need to understand is that if the Board's Budget is not approved then based on the new legislation presented to the General Assembly by Scott Guthrie, and Lisa Tommasso, the H6101 Bill, will force the last budget into place.**
- The courts will then adopt a budget for us at a rate of 2.80 per**

thousand.

- **Spread the Word to your neighbors so that everyone is represented at the Vote**
- **To keep CCFD in business we need you to vote for a budget that the board will present at a reasonable rate–Please Spend one hour of your time to support us and**

VOTE !!!

Appointment of a Tax Assessor to certify Tax Roll(s) in advance of the Special Meeting.

A motion was made to table the appointment until the next meeting by Director Jendzejec and Seconded by Director Hadley.

All Vote Aye

District staffing /manning levels allocation of resources (personnel and equipment) - Basically we have minimum or ten people the Mater indicated we are working with a minimum of eight. The President stated that if ten guys show up we pay them. The President directed comments to the Union and made suggestion that it is in their best interest to curtail the overtime so we can continue to pay the payroll.

Update on the APRA request by Ray Angell Esq. – David Dagostino

stated he is working on it and will get a letter out soon.

Old or New Business – no new or old business.

The President of the Board gave a quick update of what happened at the court hearing and also stated they are trying to get all costs in line and also trying to get a good number that everyone can work with He also stated that the judge stated that the Board needs to start working with the Union to get working on budgeting for the rest of the year.

Motion was made to go into executive session made by President Gralinski and Seconded by Director Jendzejec.

All Voted Aye

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.