



Central Coventry Fire District  
Board Meeting  
1670 Flat River Rd.

**Minutes**

March 19, 2015 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order – 7:05 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
Pledge of Allegiance to the Unites States of America was led by President Fred P. Gralinski.
3. Moment of silence for Chief Andrew Baynes.
4. Roll Call  
Roll call was conducted by President Fred P. Gralinski:
  - Present: Helen G. Quinn, Daniel K. Lantz Jr., President Fred P. Gralinski, Vice President: Marie Baker, Director Cynthia A. Fagan-Perry, Receiver Mark Phiffer, DOR Larry Sprague, and Chief Shawn Murray.
  - Also in attendance, Tax Collector Pam Fontaine, Clerk Christine Moniz, President of the Union, Legal Counsel Dave Dagostino, members of the public, and the Fire Department.
5. Tax Collectors report  
Pam Fontaine said she has February, January, December thru September that the was asked for February \$ 707,963.74

**Taxes collected:**

Year 14	\$691,602.94
Year 13	\$8,767.68
Year 12	\$596.14
Year 11	\$329.06
Prior	\$529.68

Interested collected for February                      \$6,063.95

Legal                      \$74.29

Total of                      \$707,963.74

**Reported outstanding taxes:**

2014	\$2,306,805.02
2013	\$219,083.41
2012	\$20,349.95
2011	\$13,742.54

President Fred P. Gralinski asked, for year 2013 we still have outstanding \$219 thousand, are we planning on having a tax sale? Pam Fontaine responded: No one has given me the authority to do a tax sale. President Fred P. Gralinski asked Pam Fontaine if she knew what the percentage was for 2013 taxes. Pam Fontaine response was: I don't have it off the top of her head, but as of 14 we are collecting 55%. President Fred P. Gralinski clarified this percent was for the year not the amount that is owed. Pam Fontaine said, we are 55% collected for 2014.

Recording taken by Christine Moniz, – 03/19/2015

Revised by Leslie Jacobo

Presented to the Board – 04/16/2015



Central Coventry Fire District  
Board Meeting  
1670 Flat River Rd.

Marie Baker asked Pam what were Vision checks.

She said, the reconciliation they received from the state that showed carry overs. Pam Fontaine said we will always have carry overs and Vision is the software not checks. Maybe what you're asking is about the credit card she replied. Marie Baker said: The State broke up the two categories, one for Vision check registered and the other credit cards payment and I wanted to understand the difference. Pam Fontaine responded, you can ask the State. Marie Baker said it was ok that's fine.

President Fred P. Gralinski asked if they had any more questions. Everyone was all set. Then he asked if they wanted to entertain a motion to accept the Tax Collectors report. Motion accepted by Cynthia Fagan-Perry, second by Marie Baker, any discussion, all in favor. All apposed and The Tax Collectors report was accepted.

Status of the Collectors office – The department is still down 1 part-time employee, but the present staff continues to work diligently processing second quarter payments and make deposits daily. The Tax Department has received the new EPSON receipt printer. This new printer will cut down on the use of large sheets and paper, but it also clarifies the breakdown of the payment for the tax payer.

Motion made to accept the Tax Collectors report by Director Fagan-Perry and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Quinn and V.P. Baker, All Voted Aye

6. Chief's report – This was the first report

The Chief started off by thanking all the hard work being done by the Tax Collector's office. Pam suggestions were helpful and she is doing a good job. He mentioned that he attended Chief Baynes funeral and even though he didn't know him he knows he did a lot for the district. The Chief stated that he is very proud of the men and women of the Fire District. The 3 three districts, West Warwick and Johnston gave Chief Baynes a traditional Department funeral. The funeral and wake was very well attended. On the Chief reports the first few pages are just updates the staffing levels. For example in administration part is the list of the staff and the vacancy. Under the operations section, we now have divided the 4 groups in to 3 groups for cost savings. Also 5 are out on Injury on Duty.

**Emergency Responses**

Total incidents January 1, 2015 to January 31, 2015  
277 Incidents Total  
214 EMS  
63 Fires  
Mutual Aid Given: 46  
Mutual Aid Received: 21

**Fire Prevention/Public Relations**

Fire Marshal Godin continued with inspection of licensed establishments and places of assembly inspections. These inspections are ongoing throughout the year. Fire Marshal Godin investigated and researched NFPA standards on a citizen complaint related to a local company and a complaint of lack of fire related compliance with fire safety codes. After research and speaking with the owner of the property it was determined the complaint was unfounded and the business was in compliance with fire codes. Part of his research was assisted by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Complaint was placed on file.

Recording taken by Christine Moniz, – 03/19/2015

Revised by Leslie Jacobo

Presented to the Board – 04/16/2015



Central Coventry Fire District  
Board Meeting  
1670 Flat River Rd.

Fire Marshal Godin attended a meeting hosted by the State Fire Marshal relative to the licensing and certification of fire investigators. The state has reviewed standards and qualifications for individuals to be qualified to investigate fires and will need to be certified. Marshal Godin has most of the requirements already and only needs to pick up a couple of classes to maintain certification. I met with Marshal Godin to review a number of ongoing construction projects and to inform me of his ongoing activities. He has also been busy with residential inspections related to the sale of property.

Marshal Godin with the assistance of the State Fire Marshal was the lead investigator for the fire on Kowal Court. Due to the amount of fire damage that consumed the building the cause of the fire was classified as undetermined. The fire was not of suspicious nature and the cause was narrowed down to either an electrical issue or a woodstove. We are fortunate to have the knowledge and professionalism of Marshal Godin to determine cause and origin of various fires. I met with Marshal Godin to review a number of ongoing construction projects and to inform me of his ongoing activities. He has also been busy with residential inspections related to the sale of property.

### **Apparatus and Vehicle Maintenance**

Out of service time of apparatus has been minimal this reporting period with the exception of Engine 7 that has been out of service for over a month for, maintenance, repair of a pump shift issue, an air leak and some light changes. In speaking with our repair vendor he has difficulty getting parts shipped from apparatus manufacturers because he is not an authorized dealer. This results in a delay in receiving parts. We are going to look at some alternate repair facilities to assist the repair shop with a shorter down time and freeing up space in his shop.

Rescue 7 has been out of service for a week. It is experiencing a lack of power. At first it was thought to be a turbo issue (a common problem with the Ford rescues), however that was eliminated as the cause. Rescue 3 was out of service earlier this week for wheel bearings and brake repairs. Repairs have been made and it returned to service on Wednesday.

Battalion Chief Cady's suburban experienced an electrical issue that we are dealing with. We do have back up apparatus engine 5 and rescue 5 to switch it out. Fortunately all of our front line apparatus and rescues are approaching a point of needing to plan for replacement. Rescue 3 the 2009 rescue currently has 113,000 miles on it. That's too many miles and they are wearing pretty quickly.

### **Facilities and Building Maintenance**

There has been a number of building maintenance and repair issues over the past month. They include: Replaced the leaking urinal in the men's room at Arnold Road Fire Station had a number of frozen pipes at the Washington and Harris Station freeze and burst requiring a plumber to repair. Fortunately our checking buildings almost daily resulted in catching the frozen pipes and preventing any major damage to the buildings. I have filed an insurance claim to recoup the money for the plumber. We continue to check the buildings and have shut off the water where needed to prevent further freezing. Plumbing repairs were completed on the kitchen sink at Arnold Station.

The air compressor for the Plymovent System at Arnold Road Station was repaired after failing to run. One of the two heating units in the bay at Arnold Road was repaired. A local company have been contracted to provide plowing services for the stations. Obviously with the amount of snow we have experienced the plowing bill will be high

Recording taken by Christine Moniz, – 03/19/2015

Revised by Leslie Jacobo

Presented to the Board – 04/16/2015



Central Coventry Fire District  
Board Meeting  
1670 Flat River Rd.

My overall review and evaluation of the various fire stations, most importantly those stations currently in use by Central Coventry Fire District show a clear deterioration in their maintenance, energy efficiency, adequate apparatus, living, and administrative working space, as well as substandard mechanical systems within the buildings to maintain an adequate working environment. It is my recommendation that the Board of Directors consider the study of these buildings and development of a strategic plan to address these issues down the road.

Battalion Chief Cady will continue the training for any certification for the men. Fire Chief apologized for the length of this report and he is almost done. One more thing he would like to talk about is IT. Right now we are working on getting quotes for IT service. We are also working on cleaning out the stations that are closed.

President Gralinski asks if anyone had questions.

Question to the Chief – V.P. Marie Baker asked about the Platoon system and how many men are on per shift. The Judge Mark Pfeiffer stated if she wanted to wait on that after his report it may answer V.P. Bakers questions and to hold off after he was done. The President inquired about the 5 FF out on OJI and the Chief answered that they are actively looking into each case and also looking into the possibility of setting up light duty. He will not talk about anyone individual because that is personal and against HIPPA.

The President won't vote on the accepting the Chief's report until after they heard the Judge's report. Then they can come back and ask any questions that may be unanswered. The President then introduced Mr. Phipper as our King Ayatollah to the audience to give his presentation on the Status of the Receivership. He also gave his opinion on how he always thinks when he sees Mr. Phipper. He's very professional at what he does, but he thinks of Ronald Reagan saying "I am here from the government, I am here to help" and that makes him worry in his opinion. Then he asked Mr. Phipper to give his presentation.

Mr. Phipper gave his background of being the first state receiver in Central Falls. He knows this is a very stressful process for everyone involved, certainly for the Board because the State is involved. It's not a pleasant experience for all of you not knowing where the district is going, and what it means for the bottom line cost for each taxpayer to keep the support for this district going. It is also a very stressful process for the Firefighters and the great financial loss for the employees that work for Central Coventry Fire District. This is not an easy process for anyone. The Judge then briefly reiterated the time line of when the State had taken control. He also went over the prior actions in May of last year when the District was under the judicial receiver Mr. Richard Land, and how it was lengthy, costly and did not provide any results that anybody could be happy with. That's when the General Assembly amended the state law. With that filing, we were able to put in place in January of this year the pendency Plan.

Under that plan it allows certain changes to the way services are being performed, and a long time plan, with huge savings to the District. The reasoning for the savings in overtime is the District went from a 4 platoon system to a 3 three platoon system. This was the question Marie had asked and we can go back to it. With the 3 platoon system the FF now works 24 hour shifts instead of 10 and 14. The State is also looking into setting up another health care provider to help reduce costs, even looking into a different vender.

This is under the umbrella of the pendency plan. The Judge then explained the tricky part is the structure and long term plan to meet the obligations and debt of the District, since you cannot work under this plan forever. The District needs to look at the debt of the District and try to come up with a plan for repayment. The Judge also explained that the biggest piece of the debt and terms of the collective bargaining agreement. With that said they are now in good faith working on a new contract that creates the kinds of savings that is necessary to put the District into a financially solvent situation.

Recording taken by Christine Moniz, – 03/19/2015

Revised by Leslie Jacobo

Presented to the Board – 04/16/2015



Central Coventry Fire District  
Board Meeting  
1670 Flat River Rd.

The Judge mentioned that so far the State and the Union have met at least 9 times and he is pleased to report progress has been made. This new agreement could and will give this District the kinds of savings that it needs to make us financially sound. At this point the Judge cannot report directly on the discussions, only to say that they are going well and very close. He also feels that by the time the May 6<sup>th</sup> hearing the State will be in the position to report on the changes. He said that he is committed to make this process move quickly and have a resolution to the problems. Overall have a restructure plan, provide safety, and not cost you more then what you are already paying. With that he invited any questions.

V.P. Marie Baker question:

How many men are on one shift? The Judge answered that with the new plan in place they have 11, 11 and 10 on one platoon, a total of 32 FF. V.P. Baker then asked if that is 11 FF at each station. The Judge explained it is 11 FF per platoon and that we have two stations so the platoon is split between the two locations. The Judge asked the Chief to answer that question. The Chief replied, yes these are split in two and cover if any one sick or out injured on duty. The President then asked, we were operating with 8 people, was that not enough? The Chief answered, the new plan has consolidated one group and in the long run will slow the rate in overtime, and now that we our schedule is, 11 on 8 minim we will save a substantial amount of money. The President went to say, if the airlines ran like that, then they would have an extra pilot one every plane. He gave his opinion on cost saving and the Chief said he would sit down with any Board member to better understand their question. He is willing to sit down and map it, what this has done has not cost more, but saved money and provide safety. The president said they are looking to save money and cost down. Then said this can continue in a separate meeting.

The president asked about cash flow, and will we make it until next November when the money comes in. Larry Sprague – DOR answered, we have a balance budget and for balance forecast. The Present asked if this will take us until November like last year. Mr. Sprague answered this is the plan.

The president asked the judge regarding, the question of Union Contract. The judge said he received the Presidents email yesterday. The response was there was nothing unusual with the negation of the contract a year early. Under the bylaws of the Board they entered into the contract since 2012.

The President asked Mr. Sprague if he was looking to increasing taxes. The judge answered, this will be thru the levy, and maybe a 2%. He was also asked if we have been saving. The judge responded with the pendency plan we will have the full benefits of the savings. Marie asked one more questions for the Chief. She wants the call volume from last year compare to this year. The President asked if some of the changes have taken effect, or are we waiting for the plan to finalize. The Judge said some have such as the down size of the Platoons, the move of the insurance, and yes we have had large savings. We will have a revised CBA with large savings. A question asked to the Judge was, would they be able to see the contract before it's signed. The Judge explained that they are the negation team and they will negotiate the contract. This will be available in a public hearing. The answer is no, by statue it's negotiated and that's the way it works. The Presidents favorite expression: if you're not at the table then you're on the menu. He feels he has been on the menu for the very beginning so why change now?

President Gralinsk asked if anyone has any other questions. Then asked Motion made to accept the Chiefs report, Second by Marie Baker, all in favor, All Voted Aye

7. Public comment

- a. Regarding meeting with creditors. The Judge said it's in process for notification, for who can file a claim with the court and then identify what the claims are.

Recording taken by Christine Moniz, – 03/19/2015

Revised by Leslie Jacobo

Presented to the Board – 04/16/2015



Central Coventry Fire District  
Board Meeting  
1670 Flat River Rd.

- b. Account receivable and taxing, he has been asking Pam and she hasn't been able to answer. The Judge said if he has a specific question. The tax payer received an invoice and he was excited because it was a balance he agreed to. When he spoke with Pam she said this was a mistake. He wants to know if he has to go to Federal Bankruptcy court. The Judge answered it depends on the situation and he suggest to contact us in our office at Arnold Road or we can discuss after the meeting.
- c. Quarter reports from Anthony. The Judge said the reporting requirements would be from Municipal affairs from DOR. I can make sure someone can help you with your question.

The President asked if everyone can state their name.

- d. Denise Davenport, overtime and savings that we are seeing. Wants to know breakdowns from monthly, quarterly so she can see what substantial savings are. Just because they are told it's substantial, she may have a different opinion of what substantial means. The Judge said the best measure after the revised CBA. The total savings have been 10 thousand in the last 2 two months. Denis said this number helps because she does feel this is substantial savings.
- e. Ron again- He feels encouraged for what he has heard tonight and wants to resolve this soon, and get his District solid and protected. The President told him to get to the point because he doesn't want people to leave. He responded- The mutual aid is it internal or external? The Chief said it depends some other communities may come in. Ron- said we respond to more than half of Coventry and with only two stations what is the response time. He is worried about people who need oxygen and he wants us to have staffing so we can get to the areas we need. The President asked him what his question. Ron- responded my concern with the latter truck? Do we have other latter trucks? Buck trucks? The Chief said the Mutual aid we have back up with calls. Ron- said he wants it on record that he knows he are low on funds but we need a buck truck. Ron said if the public understood response time then they would understand.
- f. The President asked about the pension obligation and the pension board. Are we paying 650,000 paying to them directly or amortize? The Judge said yes and the President and they all agree.

The President asked if they had any new business and none was brought up.

Motion made adjourn by President Gralinski and seconded by Director Fagan-Perry and V.P. Baker. All Voted Aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.