



Central Coventry Fire District  
Board Meeting  
1670 Flat River Rd.

**Minutes**

April 16, 2015 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was led by President Fred P. Gralinski.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by President Fred P. Gralinski:

- Present: Helen G. Quinn, Daniel K. Lantz Jr., President Fred P. Gralinski, and Vice President Marie Baker, Director Cynthia A. Fagan-Perry, Director Maureen K. Jendzejec and Chief Shawn Murray.
- Also in attendance, Tax Collector Pam Fontaine, and members of the public

3. Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting of January 5, 2015

4. Approval of Minutes of Board Meeting of March 19, 2015

- January and March minutes were ok, the only problem was the spelling of Judge Pfeiffer name.
- Motion made to accept the Minutes of Board Meeting for January and March report by, Director Cynthia A. Fagan-Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Marie Baker, All Voted Aye

5. Tax Collectors report

- Tax collectors report is unclear and not loud enough to hear on the recording. Attached is a copy of the Tax Collectors report for this meeting.
- Motion made to accept the Tax Collectors report, Director Cynthia A. Fagan-Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Marie Baker, All Voted Aye

6. Chief's report

- The following was discussed:
  1. Administration – total of 6
  2. Operations - total of 32 firefighter not including employees out on OJI
  3. On job Injury (OJI) - total of 5 out on OJI
  4. A total of 257 incidents occurred in the month of March
  5. The Fire Marshal is working on several things, such as:
    - a. Inspections of licensed establishments and places of assembly inspections.
    - b. Residential sale inspections.
    - c. Working on projects such as, the plan review on a sub division, 2 new residential construction projects, recertifying as a NFPA Fire Inspector & Certified Fire Plan Examiner.
  6. Apparatus and vehicle maintenance
    - a. Three tire issues over the past month due to pot holes
    - b. Rescue 5 is out of service due to electrical issues, and also because of the water pump. Currently, we are waiting on an estimate to repair Rescue 5 from Interstate Diesel in N. Kingstown.
    - c. Wheel and Brake serviced the 2008 GMC Envoy with new breaks.
    - d. The maintenance and breakdowns of our Rescues are continuing to increase due to their age. Replacements or other alternatives are under review to fix this issue.
    - e. The Chief said “we need to plan on replacing two of the command vehicles, 1 has above 110,000 miles, and the other 70,000”. “We are in need of a utility/plow



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- vehicle. The “Squad” vehicle that was used previously for plowing is out of service due to transmission issues.”
- f. The Capital Reserve Fund is established to put money away each year for the vehicle replacement program. This will avoid us from ending up in the position we are in now, said the Chief. This will result in a level funded reserve fund that will not create a tax spike when it comes time to replace apparatus.
7. Facilities and Building Maintenance
    - a. All repairs of broken pipes have been completed at the Washington and Harris Station. Insurance claims for the damages have been filed, along with a claim on the roof leak for Station 7.
  8. Training
    - a. BC Cady recently attended training at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) at the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg Maryland.
    - b. Battalion Chief Jim Cady continues to provide planning and training for personnel in order to maintain both EMS and fire training requirements.
  9. Other activities
    - a. IT consultants come in and evaluated our computer servers, network, wireless, and desktop units.
    - b. The next phase of the evaluation will identify which machines need upgrades. The Chief thanked Firefighter Dave Simpson for his assistance with our computer systems.
    - c. The “Official” Facebook Page has been published and is up and operating. As of this date we have over 590 “Likes.”
    - d. The Chief has contacted Partnership for Rhode Island Streetlight Management (PRISM). They are a statewide nonprofit municipal collaboration to manage streetlights, including ongoing maintenance, service changes, emergency repairs, LED upgrades, and control installation. Through their program PRISM will conduct an analysis of our street lights and provide us with a comprehensive report which could reduce streetlight expenses by 40 percent.
    - e. Chief said, “I am also pleased to report that the district is obtaining credits and refunds from various businesses that have been charging us a tax on purchases and services over the past years. Being a municipality we are exempt from sales tax.”
  10. Miscellaneous items
    - a. The Chief attended many meeting with companies and people such as: Shipman’s Fire Equipment Representative, Bulldog Fire Apparatus, Rhode Island Fire Chief’s Meeting here in Coventry, meet and greet with Anthony Acting Fire Chief Williams, Rhode Island Department of Revenue, Crews assigned to shovel out hydrants, Multiple State Team Meetings, Responded to structure fire on Laurel Street, also Board of Directors meeting, and RI Fire Chiefs foundation
    - b. The Chief is overseeing Leslie Jacobo as she continues on working on accounts payable and admin assistant (temp position)
    - c. Completed reconciliation and re-organized the issuance of fuel keys to match current fleet inventory.
    - d. Conducting review of all policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
  11. Questions and comments on the Chief’s report
    - a. President Gralinski would like a bigger unit with a lift to help the back injury and get to the right unit. He is thinking not doing anything temporary, but this might be better than buying a new piece that isn’t actually what we need. If we really want buy something new then we really want to get the right thing, those are the bigger truck with the lift on the back. Chief Murray responded saying, “there are ones out there that are a couple of years old and we will be looking for those.”



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- b. The President asked about the people the Chief has been talking to, is this equipment for fire or rescue? Chief responded: Shipment was regarding basic supplies and protective clothing. He believes we will have enough funds to replace 10 sets of firefighter gear, which they are in ruff shape. Basics things like gloves, helmets and things like that. Bulldog fire is pertaining rescue they are looking at the obsolete equipment to give us an idea what they are worse. Next year if things goes in plan with the financials then we can replace the fire engine. President asked if he has talked to Emergency One in North Attleboro. The chief said, yes they are a dealer, and he is working on that any recommendations will come to the board.
- c. Daniel K. Lantz Jr., (Dan) asked the Chief regarding the people who charged us on taxes since 1992. What are the chances of getting money, or the state give to us, or supply us with the sales nook for us to go to the state for the money? The Chief said he would look into this.
- d. Marie mentioned to the Chief, that we need to straighten out the grants and the grant process. So this was we can start getting federal funds and she is willing to start a group or something to help. Chief said, he has a contact in Boston, and he is reaching out to him regarding the status of the district with federal grants. His plan is to find out our status and gets us moving. The President made a joke about how quickly the Chief adapted to RI, when the Chief said he has a guy.
- e. President asked if we have a Motion to accept the Chiefs report: Motion made to accept by Maureen K. Jendzejec and 2nd by Helen G. Quinn, all in favor, All Voted Aye

7. Public Comment and Questions

- a. President asked to give their name before they talk and speak into the mic.
- b. Ron - wants to know if they can comment on New Business even after public comment. The President said yes.
- c. Dave Godin- Wanted to know if the name of the Fireman and his injury, if this is appropriate to be talked in a public hearing. What about HIPPA law? The President said this is a work related injury. Mr. Godin said HIPPA law we should not discuss his name and injury. The President replied "point taken".
- d. Resident (name unknown) He asked the Chief regarding the comment on Tuesday night they heard the reduction of 32 men and he would like to know how long this will take. The Chief said, someone on OJI may not come back to work, or some people may retire within a half a year, or potentially people may be leaving to other district. This resident said the work potentially means this could happen or couldn't happen. He said, "If I was running a business and it was costing me money for extra people, I would think about laying off people and reducing my force down." He understands the Chief doesn't have much to do with this, but the Judge didn't have any comment on this. He would like to compliment the Chief on the great job he is doing. Leslie Jacobo- Asked from everyone to give their names when asking their question or questions. This resident said his name is Jim Terra.
- e. The President apologized to Mr. Godin regarding the mentioning of the Firefighters name earlier.
- f. Ron- asked regarding the Pot holes that ruined the tires. He would like to know if we have gone after the Town or the State for that money. The Chief responded, "no and the reason is, it's highly unlikely they are going to pay for this". Ron replied "the state has paid for things like this".
- g. Ron - He wants someone to test the sound system, so the amplifier never has a problem. The President motioned to have Ron do this. Everyone said Aye. Ron said he only wants to help. Ron also said the incentive of working as a firefighter is the retirement. He said he knows we can't have a station on every corner but safety is big.
- h. Deb Baken- She asked about the estimated tax and if this was a supplemental tax. The President responded "this is a strait tax and the 2% tax increase per year based on the receiver budget". The Board has had no input on the budget and this is the state tax increase. He also said, the State is



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looking at the district growth in value. He said that the Fire Marshal has been working on a housing project on Station Street. Fire Marshal Godin said the Station Street project has 17 houses and another 19 to start. The President also said, last year they didn't include Harris Condos. FM Godin said the numbers are in the 100's and 3 or 4 others large development coming in. The President said this is positive news because this could give us the chance to expand our base and not increase our taxes. The Fire Marshal talked about impact fees and the low income. The town waives impact fees to low income but the District Fire doesn't have to. Mulherin drive Coventry has elderly places, Anthony and the Fire District has a large impact on ems and fire calls. Corporations should come in and not pay these impact fees and the district loses the money. The President agreed with not raising taxes but this impact fees is appropriate. Fire Marshal said these impact fees would go on the corporation development not the people. Helen G. Quinn said we will need to talk to the Planning Department in town and how to go about this as she sits on this board.

- i. Karen Calson- she asked if this is the tax, is this going to be enough for equipment, operating cost, building maintenance, and things like this? The President said yes, there is money in the capitol budget and what we need to look at questions like, do we lease or buy equipment? Rick Lan was very expensive and that cost us a million dollars and he is no longer with us, he is only taking care of the insurance claims. The Judge is only \$200/hour and Rick was more \$300 or 350/hour. The faster we can send the Judge back fishing, the better we will be. The consumer and commercial tax increased 1.5x the rate. The car tax was never adapted.
  - j. Lindsey Benet- Wants to know about the cost of the Judge and the receiver team. Is the State paying for half? The President said some of the people are being supplied by the state, but Heather Martino and the Judge we are paying for, but he believes the State is paying for Larry. When they appoint a fiscal overseer then they will pay 50%.
  - k. Ron- Can we protract the states rates of the Receivership? He wants to know if we can negotiate the bill with the Receiver. The President answered, the Receiver gets paid, they are on both side.
  - l. Marie asked if we can send something to the Firefighter who is really sick. All Board members agreed.
8. New Business
- a. Helen- Asked the Chief regarding why was the Fire truck parked at the last meeting, we didn't have an emergency, and she said they are wasting gas. The Chief said, "They were there with my permission". The President said "enough said".
  - b. Resident (unknown name) - asked the Chief regarding cleaning out the Stations, and how he is making out with that. The Chief said they are working with the State and he is waiting on setting dates. The President said the board can help in anyway.
  - c. The Presidents question was about the meeting the other night regarding the Budget. He said the Board will keep an eye on the budget and the money of the people and that the best they can do. Fight when they have to! One question he had about the other night was, why are we keeping 4 extra people when we have 36 not 32. Then the President said "Tonight the Chief has told us the situation and now I understand". The concern we have is going under 32 men, because of hiring and training. We now know we cannot privatize, and we need to work with the hand we are dealt. The Chief is replacing personal safety equipment, and we are going to look for the safety of the people. The President was not happy with a few things in the contract. He feels the 2.50% Co-pay could have been higher, and the deductible is too low. The raise situation is difficult to see, there are lots of changes in the contract, but we need to look at the whole package. The contact is at lease better than it was before.
9. Motion made adjourn, Director Fagan-Perry and 2nd by Daniel K. Lantz Jr, All Voted Aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.