

Exeter Fire District

(October 13, 2005)

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lacouture called the October 13th meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:08pm. Present were Commissioners Vergano, Lacouture, Wilbur, Nievera, Swanson and Walker. District collector, Ms. Jean McMahon, as well as one member of the public, were in attendance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Previous Month's Minutes

Mr. Wilbur moved (Ms. Vergano second) acceptance of the minutes of the September meeting as corrected. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera was asked to send corrected copies to all board members.

Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for the period is \$117,784.76. Ms. Vergano reports receipts totaling \$251,969.40 and checks and payments

totaling \$37,336.89, leave a cleared balance of \$332,417.27. The timing of our meeting and the closing date of our account caused the above figures to be reported from two consecutive months statements. She further reports that the un-cleared register balance is \$164,141.42. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Wilbur second) acceptance of the report. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Vergano then explained her budget vs. actual report.

Communications

Mr. Nievera reported that he had received the legislative grant check (\$1,000) from Senator Breene. The check was given to Ms. Vergano for deposit into our account. Mr. Nievera will write a thank you letter to the senator for his support.

Mr. Nievera also presented a letter from Mr. Gary Parker of Michigan and John Murphy Ln. Mr. Parker raises concern over the fire and rescue coverage on his private road in the extreme western part of the town. Mr. Nievera has drafted and mailed a response indicating that the fire district has no operational control over the individual departments therefore, the letter is being forwarded to the appropriate chiefs for their action.

Mr. Lacouture reported receiving a letter from the Dept. of Labor concerning the organizing effort currently underway at the rescue building, as well as a newsletter from VFIS. He has also received an annual questionnaire from the Dept. of Administration.

Old Business

Ms. McMahon reported on the billed and collected district taxes. She reported collecting \$375,503 (including \$864.00 reported as interest). This figure represents 45% of the total annual tax. Additionally she reported that the total response rate was approximately 78% and that 39% of all billed accounts were paid in full during the first quarter. The delinquency rate was approximately 18% representing about 500 accounts.

A short discussion followed concerning payment after receipt of a delinquency notice. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Wilbur second) granting Ms. McMahon the authority to permit quarterly payments (to bring their accounts current) to recipients of delinquency notices. This authority is not limited to the first quarter. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lacouture thinks it a good idea to review the resolution pertaining to delinquent payments before the next annual meeting. He also suggested editing the back of the bill and announcing this action for the 2006 mailing. Mr. Wilbur added that we should attempt to follow the town and their policies as closely as possible.

The subject of abatements was discussed at length. Mr. Lacouture suggested empowering Ms. McMahon to follow the town tax collector and abate the properties reviewed and abated by the Town Council. This action would be followed by a monthly report to the board of commissioners as to the properties abated. Mr. Swanson would have all abatements come before the board. Ms. Vergano recommended a

committee of two or three people to review each abatement to determine the new valuation and tax. Mr. Wilbur suggested a formula to determine the new valuation. This committee will be comprised of Ms. Vergano and Mr. Wilbur. Mr. Walker moved (Mr. Nievera second) to apply the town abatement to our accounts and report, on a monthly basis, to the board of commissioners. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Vergano reported that Ms. McMahon has offered to accept her compensation on a monthly basis rather than bi-weekly. This will save about half of the payroll fees.

Mr. Nievera reported that all items donated by APCC have been received and delivered to the respective departments. He will write a thank you letter to Ted Ives from APCC and cc the four public safety organizations.

Ms. Vergano stated that the tax office had purchased a laser printer earlier in the week. The sale price of the printer was \$300.00. She noted that it took eight hours to print the delinquency notices this quarter using the ink jet printer.

Mr. Nievera reported that the hard drive in the office computer had been replaced and all the necessary s/w had been re-installed. All repair work was done under warranty with no cost to the district.

Mr. Nievera stated he would meet with Chief Kettelle within the week to discuss the formation of the grant committee. He hopes to have a meeting completed by the next board meeting.

Ms. Vergano is still looking for members for her cost consolidation committee. Chief Franklin gave her the name of Charlie Franklin to

represent Exeter #2.

Mr. Wilbur continues to seek members for his capital expenditures committee.

Mr. Lacouture will contact Brad Preston from VFIS for assistance with ISO. We are looking to set up a meeting with a consultant to advise us as to the best way to proceed.

Mr. Lacouture will e-mail the members of the board the latest copy of the tax freeze ordinance. It will be discussed at the November meeting.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 10, 2005 at the Exeter Public Library.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

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