

Exeter Fire District

(October 24, 2006)

Approved 11/30/06

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lacouture called the October meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:05pm. Present were Commissioners Vergano, Lacouture, Nievera, Swanson, Walker and Gallagher. District treasurer Ms. Caito was also in attendance. There were eight members of the public present. Mr. Lacouture welcomed Mr. Gallagher to the board and informed those in attendance that Mr. Gallagher would occupy the seat formerly held by Mr. Reed as the representative for the Exeter Rescue Corps. Mr. Nievera acknowledged and thanked Ms. Vergano for her presence at the tax office during the recent bereavement leave granted to the district collector.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Previous Month's Minutes

Ms. Vergano moved (Mr. Swanson second) acceptance of the minutes, as amended, of the August 17th meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera will post the minutes to the Secretary of State's website in addition to circulating the corrected copy to the board members at his earliest convenience.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Caito reports a beginning balance of \$114,269.93. Credits of \$272,360.25 and debits of \$357,419.54 leave a cleared balance of \$29,210.64 as of September 11. There is currently an unreconciled difference of \$39.16 that Ms. Caito is in the process of locating.

The money market account balance started at \$315,000.01. Interest of \$732.18 brought the balance to \$315,732.19 as of September 11.

For the month of October Ms. Caito reports a beginning balance of \$29,210.64. Total credits of \$218,559.07 and debits of \$130,516.31 bring the cleared balance to \$117,253.40 as of October 10.

The money market account beginning balance was \$315,732.19. Interest of \$807.84 and a debit of \$190,000.00 leave a cleared balance of \$126,540.03 as of October 10.

Mr. Lacouture requested that the treasurer's report include a quarter over quarter comparison with the previous years' collections. Additionally, that there is an accounting of funds spent during the month other than the obvious checks written to the public safety departments.

Ms. Vergano reported that our accountant, Peter D'Orsi, has completed the compilation of our financial records ending June '06. His written report should be available for the next business meeting.

Mr. Nievera moved (Ms. Vergano second) acceptance of the treasurer's report. The motion carried unanimously.

Communications

Ms. Caito reported the receipt of a letter from Beacon Mutual Ins. Co. stating that there would be a refund of premiums in the near future. The amount was not known at this time. Additionally, Beacon Mutual informed us that the company is asking for our patience during their re-structuring process. And that they were grateful for our business and hoped that we would continue to insure with them. Ms. Caito also reported receiving a letter of resignation from the Rescue Corps representative, Mr. Reed, and read a letter appointing Mr. Gallagher to the position of Rescue representative.

Old Business

Mr. Lacouture distributed a revised list of board members and their contact info. He requested that all members check the list for accuracy and report any errors to him. He then introduced a copy of the new letterhead including the addition of Mr. Gallagher.

Mr. Nievera informed the board that Ms. McMahon would be available for the Nov. 1st and 2nd tax collection period. There will be no need for any special or additional coverage during that period. He also informed the board that Ms. McMahon is looking for two consecutive Wednesdays in the November/December time frame as non-compensated time off. Mr. Nievera will fill in at the office for one (or two if needed) mornings.

Ms. Vergano reported that there had been no progress on the ISO

initiative.

Mr. Lacouture produced and distributed a timeline for the annual meeting process and suggested that we get started a little early this year. Ms. Vergano will work on a draft “common budget form” and circulate it prior to the November meeting. All board members are asked to return their comments to Ms. Vergano as soon as they are able. The budget draft will be voted on during the December meeting.

Mr. Lacouture circulated a draft of the by-laws change dealing with a budget cap. This will be discussed at the next regular business meeting of the district. The discussion on the reserve fund was tabled until such time that Mr. Wilbur could be in attendance. Mr. Lacouture will write a draft proposal to reduce the minimum tax to \$10.00 from \$20.00. This change to the bylaws will be introduced at the next regular business meeting. The intent is to bring this proposal to the voters at the next annual meeting. Tax sale issues have been tabled for the present. Mr. Lacouture is researching various laws regarding tax sales by fire districts. A short discussion then took place concerning a referendum on the November ballot with regard to affordable housing. It was the sense of the meeting that we not set a precedent with regard to the two cases recently in the press in the town of Exeter.

There were no new Office Policy statements introduced.

New Business

Mr. Lacouture informed the board that the suit filed with the IAFF

on behalf of the Exeter Rescue Employees has dropped the Exeter Fire District as a plaintiff. The Exeter Rescue Corps will bargain with the IAFF and the Exeter Rescue Corps. Mr. Caito offered that there was no specific timetable for the bargaining process.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the board will be held on November 30, 2006 at the Exeter Volunteer Fire Dept. Station #1, located at 305 Ten Rod Rd. The meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

Ms. Vergano moved (Mr. Gallagher second) adjournment at 7:59pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

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