

Approved 06/28/07

Exeter Fire District

(May 10, 2007)

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Peter Wilbur called the May meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:12pm. Present were commissioners Vergano, Lacouture, Wilbur, Nievera, Gallagher and Whitford. There were 2 members of the public in attendance. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Gallagher second) hearing the report of the treasurer prior to the election of officers so as to facilitate a prior commitment by Ms. Caito. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Caito reports that as of April 09, 2007 the balance in the checking account is \$34,378.16 and in the money market account, \$245,783.52 (total = \$280,161.68). Mr. Nievera has compared Ms. Caito's reports with the statements from Citizens Bank and he is satisfied with their consistency and accuracy.

Election of Officers

In accordance with Art. VI, Sect. 2 of the organization's bylaws, the following names were placed in nomination and voted upon:

Mr. Wilbur nominated (Mr. Whitford second) Mr. Lacouture for the position of Chairman. Mr. Lacouture's election was unanimous.

Mr. Nievera nominated (Mr. Gallagher second) Mr. Wilbur for the position of Vice – Chairman. Mr. Wilbur's election was unanimous.

Ms. Vergano nominated (Mr. Gallagher second) Mr. Nievera for the position of Clerk. Mr. Nievera's election was unanimous.

Mr. Nievera nominated (Mr. Wilbur second) Ms. Caito for the position of Treasurer. Ms. Caito's election was unanimous.

Previous Month's Minutes

Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Wilbur second) acceptance of the minutes, as corrected, of the January 11, 2007 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilbur moved (Ms. Vergano second) acceptance of the minutes, as corrected, of the February 8, 2007 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Vergano moved (Mr. Wilbur second) acceptance of the minutes, as corrected, of the February 22, 2007 Budget Hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilbur moved (Ms. Vergano second) acceptance of the minutes, as corrected, of the February 22, 2007 meeting. The motion carried

unanimously.

Mr. Nievera will post these minutes to the Scty. of State's web site at his earliest convenience. He will also re-circulate the corrected minutes to all board members.

Communications

Mr. Nievera reported that, with the exception of a notification from the Exeter Rescue Corps re-appointing Mr. Gallagher to the Board of Commissioners, all mail was operational in nature and given to Ms. Caito for her action. He also reported sending a letter of thanks to the Board of Canvassers and to Mr. Cerullo for his services as district moderator. Mr. Lacouture stated the importance of filing the requested report with the State Ethics Commission.

Old Business

Mr. Nievera reported that he had been contacted by the Board of Canvassers with regard to payment for their services at the annual meeting. Due to the time involved in receiving payment they are not in favor of a single check being written to the town treasurer and then distributed to them. They would prefer to have individual checks written by the district treasurer and mailed directly to those who worked the meeting. After a brief discussion it was determined that we would send one check to the town and let the town treasurer distribute the funds, as has been the practice in the past.

Mr. Lacouture stated that he felt the board should recognize former Commissioner Swanson for his service to the district. Mr.

Wilbur moved (Mr. Wilbur second) Mr. Nievera and Mr. Lacouture fashion a certificate to be given to Mr. Swanson at a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lacouture informed the Board that he had spoken with Representative Scott and Senator Breene concerning the Charter amendments voted upon at the recent annual meeting. Mr. Lacouture was informed that the Charter was not considered to be amended until the General Assembly had approved the new amendments. Mr. Lacouture then produced a resolution requesting that the General Assembly approve the attached amendments. Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Nievera second) adoption of the referenced resolution. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera has signed the resolution and Mr. Lacouture will forward it to the General Assembly for their action.

Mr. Nievera asked how the reserve fund would be funded. After a short discussion it was decided that that particular issue would be dealt with at a later meeting.

Mr. Nievera asked whether the board would simply honor abatements granted by the town or want to vote on them individually. Mr. Lacouture and Ms. Vergano recalled that we had decided, during a previous meeting, to have Ms. McMahon notify the board of any abatements acted upon by her. Mr. Nievera will relay this information to Ms. McMahon.

Mr. Nievera suggested a change to the tax bill mailed to district taxpayers. The change would list the due date as the 1st rather than the 15th of the month, bringing our bills more in line with those of the town. Mr. Nievera noted that this had caused some (unwarranted)

confusion on the part of some taxpayers. Mr. Lacouture stated that because of the wording in the bylaws such a change could not be made without a vote of the membership. Mr. Nievera will revisit this issue in time for the next annual meeting.

Mr. Nievera informed the board that Ms. McMahon would be requesting two consecutive Wednesdays as uncompensated time off. This time would be in September, during which there is little foot traffic at the tax office. The dates involved are 09/12 and 09/19. It was suggested that ample prior notice (signage and taped announcement) be given should the office be closed for those two days. Ms. Vergano asked if, perhaps, Ms Caito would be available to answer attorney's requests for information. A payment schedule would be negotiated if she were willing to consider this. Mr. Nievera will approach Ms. Caito on this matter.

Both the cost reduction and capital expense committees have been re-established. Mr. Wilbur hopes to have something to report at the next meeting.

Ms. Vergano inquired as to when we may be able to cause all involved in the ISO initiative to meet to review completed items and establish a plan of action. Mr. Lacouture thought that sometime in June would be possible.

Mr. Lacouture announced that Commonwealth Title would be sending the Board a proposal for their services preparing for the upcoming tax sale. Ms. McMahon has voiced a desire to meet with Commonwealth title to better understand the mechanics of a tax sale. There followed a short discussion on when to hold this tax sale. It

was recommended by Mr. Nievera that sometime during Q1 of the 07/08 tax year would be best. This issue will be further discussed at a later date. Mr. Whitford inquired as to the number of people on the tax sale list. Mr. Nievera answered that there were 71. Mr. Whitford requested a copy of the list. Mr. Nievera stated that he would e-mail the list to him at his earliest convenience.

New Business

A short discussion was held on the timetable for the establishment of the new tax rate and finalizing the bills sent to tax payers. Mr. Lacouture noted that we had established a committee of three people to set the new rate last year. Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Gallagher second) forming a committee consisting of Ms. Vergano, Mr. Lacouture and Mr. Nievera to calculate and set the tax rate when all necessary information has been determined. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on June 28, 2007 at the Exeter #1 Volunteer Fire Dept. located at 305 Ten Rod Rd. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

Ms. Vergano moved (Mr. Wilbur second) adjournment at 8:40pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

Exeter Fire District