

**Approved 01/10/08**

**Exeter Fire District**

**(October 11, 2007)**

**Call to Order**

**Chairman Peter Lacouture called the October meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:18pm. Present were commissioners Vergano, Lacouture, Wilbur, Nievera, Gallagher and Walker. Also present was district treasurer, Ms. Caito. There was 1 member of the public in attendance.**

**Public Comment**

**There was no public comment.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Ms. Caito reports a beginning balance of \$190,847.95 as of August 09, 2007. Activity within the accounts for the period August 09 thru Sept. 11, 2007 brings the balance to \$363,837.77. Mr. Nievera has compared the reports of the treasurer with the corresponding bank statements thru Sept. 11, 2007 and is satisfied with their accuracy. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Wilbur second) accepting the report of the treasurer. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Previous Month's Minutes**

**Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Gallagher second) acceptance of the minutes, as corrected, of the September 13, 2007 meeting. The motion carried unanimously. It was requested that Mr. Nievera re-circulate these minutes to all board members at his earliest convenience.**

## **Communications**

**Mr. Nievera reported that he has completed the Facilities Request Form requesting the use of the EWG High School auditorium for the 2008 annual meeting. It will be in the mail by the week end. Mr. Lacouture reported that he had completed and returned the annual fire district survey.**

## **Old Business**

**Ms. McMahon's report on abatements and refunds was given to the board. Mr. Wilbur asked about the treatment of abatements relative to the town. Mr. Nievera stated that the Exeter Town Council approves all abatements prior to their execution. The fire district then processes the abatements on our system. The commissioners are then notified of the abatement.**

**Mr. Wilbur asked of the town policy on requesting MLC's for tax information. Mr. Nievera will approach Ms. Lussier and inquire as to her policy. He will contact commissioners by e-mail with his findings.**

**Ms. Vergano asked for a clarification on the "tax sale" list. Mr.**

Nievera explained that there were 44 accounts (representing approximately \$13,400 in 2005 tax revenue) eligible for a tax sale. He then gave his report on the total of the delinquent account status as well as the monies owed to the district due to their delinquency. In addition to the 44 delinquent accounts for the 2005 tax year, there are 160 delinquent accounts for 2006 and 425 for the current (2007) tax year. There then followed a discussion as to the mechanics and logistics of a tax sale. It was agreed that all questions/concerns covering the sale would be forwarded to Mr. Walker and he would present them to Bridgett (RI Tax Titles). Mr. Walker has requested that all questions be submitted to him in the most expeditious manner as not to interfere with Bridgett's time line. Also discussed was the desire of the board to give delinquent taxpayers "one more" last opportunity to bring their accounts current. Mr. Nievera is willing to draft a letter and send it to all '05 delinquent tax payers. The letter will be circulated for board approval.

Mr. Nievera stated that Ms. McMahon had joined an association of state tax collectors and that the dues were \$30/yr. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Gallagher second) that the district pay the annual membership dues. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nievera inquired as to the ethics of commissioners and board members bidding on properties at a tax sale originated by the fire district they represent. A lengthy discussion ended with Mr. Wilbur moving (Mr. Nievera second) that any board member or officer of the Exeter Fire District must obtain and present a favorable advisory opinion from the RI Ethics Commission prior to such board member,

**officer, or immediate family [member] thereof bidding on or purchasing any property at a tax sale of the Exeter Fire District. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Lacouture noted that both the ISO and Capital Expenditures committees attempted to meet but have been unable to do so. They will attempt to set a meeting date during the upcoming week.**

## **New Business**

**A discussion on the 2008 budget process followed. Mr. Lacouture presented a timeline for the 2007 annual meeting. This will be used as a guide for annual meetings in the future. Ms. Vergano will send locked budget forms to the organizations by November 1st of this year requesting that they be returned by February 1st of 2008. Any and all changes to be made to these forms will be made by Ms. Vergano. She will include a cash and debt position report in each package.**

## **Next Meeting**

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on November 8, 2007 at the Exeter Public Library. The meeting will begin at 7:30pm. Please note the change in the start time of this meeting.**

## **Adjournment**

**Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Gallagher second) adjournment at 8:45pm.  
The motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Bill Nievera, Clerk**

**Exeter Fire District**