

Approved 05/13/10

Exeter Fire District

(February 11, 2010)

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lacouture called the February meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:14pm. Present were commissioners Lacouture, Wilbur, Rooney, Gallagher, Slater and Nievera. Ms. Caito, district treasurer, was also present. There were 8 members of the public in attendance.

Mr. Lacouture requested a moment of silence in memory of Don Fulford, former Deputy Chief of the Exeter #1 Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Nievera stated that he wished to recognize several members of public safety within the town for their involvement with the Swine flu clinic held last Saturday at the Job Corps Center.

Public Comment

Scott Kettelle wished to assure those present that although he may be listed on the current tax sale list, he has paid his taxes early each year the fire district has been in existence. The tax sale list lists unpaid taxes after he sold the property.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Caito reported the beginning balance in the district accounts to be \$391,561.33 as of December 9, 2009. Activity within the accounts brings the balance to \$218,443.39 as of January 11, 2010. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Wilbur second) acceptance of the report of the treasurer. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera has compared the report of the treasurer with the bank statements and is satisfied with its accuracy.

Previous Month's Minutes

Mr. Gallagher moved (Mr. Slater second) acceptance of the minutes of the January meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera will re-circulate these minutes and file them with the Secretary of State's office at his earliest convenience.

Communications

Mr. Nievera reported that all operational mail had been given to the treasurer for her action. He also reported the receipt of a card introducing Glen Carlson, a tax sale attorney. Among other mail received were the budget requests for the individual organizations, as well as the confirmation package for the legislative grant that we applied for in November. Also received was an offer from Opal Data to back up our collection information. Mr. Nievera reported having sent a request for the Exeter BOC to provide the canvassers' services for our annual meeting in April.

Old Business

Mr. Nievera read the report of the collector and gave a brief report on the status of delinquent accounts as of 01/31/10. He stated that there were 58 accounts that comprise the new tax sale list. He stated that all 58 accounts would be sent a special delinquent notice at the end of the Q3 collection period. This letter usually causes a significant amount of taxpayer contact with the office.

He also gave a brief report on the status of the 27, 28 and 29 accounts. Those tangible accounts (27's), which offer a reasonable chance of collection, will be printed and sent along with the regular Q3 delinquent account notices.

Joe Conroy (EVFD #1) gave a brief overview of his department's budget request.

EVFD #1 is requesting a 0% increase over last year)

Bob Franklin (EVFC #2) gave an overview of his budget and noted that he could be forced to look for a lighter vehicle for use in the Arcadia management area. The RIDOT has posted maximum weight limits on the bridges within the management area that do not safely allow current fire apparatus to cross. Several people have been contacted with very little response. Said Mr. Franklin, "It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when".

(EVFC #2 is requesting a 0% increase over last year)

Dennis Colacone (EEDC) explained his budget to the board, noting

that salaries were the main driver of his increase. He also informed the board that his employees have started to make co-pays on their health insurance.

(EEDC is requesting a 2.9% increase over last year)

Tom Caito (Exeter Rescue Corps) explained that in addition to his contractual obligations for salary increases (4%) his organization recognizes the need to reinstate their vehicle replacement fund. He states that one of his vehicles is now ten years old and will very soon need to be replaced. But, because of the hard economic times, the line item will be \$10,000. He admits that amount is far too small, but he feels that he has to at least start the fund. Mr. Caito has also negotiated a 10% to 15% co-pays on health insurance for the Rescue employees. Mr. Slater asked Mr. Caito if he billed for runs to Marathon House. He replied that he does bill, but very seldom receives reimbursement.

(The Exeter Rescue Corps is requesting a 5.8% increase over last year and will require a 2/3 majority vote to pass)

Mr. Lacouture explained the administrative budget request that he and Ms. Caito had compiled.

(The Fire District Administration requesting a 0.6% increase)

Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Gallagher second) moving \$5,000 from the surplus (unanticipated revenues) to the reserve fund and indicate an amount of \$0 for the reserve fund line item. This will bring the reserve fund at the level agreed to three years ago by all the commissioners. The motion carried unanimously.

The overall budget increase over last year is 2.6%.

Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Nievera second) presenting the budget, as altered, at the budget hearing two weeks from tonight, (02/25/10). The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Chief Chamberlain (EVFD #1) reported that a good job was done by all those who assisted in the H1N1 flu clinic last Saturday. Scott Kettelle (EMA Director) added that 236 doses of the vaccine were distributed.

Chief Franklin (EVFC #2) re-iterated that he was very concerned at the lack of action by the State over the bridge situation in the Arcadia management area.

Scott Kettelle (EEDC) stated that the organization is running well and that there were two dispatchers in during the recent storm. (This is a usual practice.) He also reported that there was a fatality on Rt. 95 at Rt. 165 recently and our dispatchers were never notified. “The communications between the RISP and the dispatch center has to improve”. Mr. Kettelle also stated his opinion that the public safety organizations were deferring far too many purchases and that some day it will come back to haunt them in the form of unrealistic budget requests.

The schedule of Commissioner's meetings was discussed. Mr. Nievera will post it on the Secty. of State's website at his earliest convenience.

Scott Millar will be on hand at the March (03/11/10) meeting to give a short presentation on the "Borderlands Project".

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Exeter Fire District will be a budget hearing scheduled for February 25th at the Exeter #1 Volunteer Fire Department, located at 305 Ten Rod Rd.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Exeter Fire District Board of Commissioners will be held on March 11th 2010. That meeting will be held in the program room of the Exeter Public library.

Both meetings will begin at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Wilbur second) adjournment at 8:54pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

Exeter Fire District