

Approved 03/08/2012

Exeter Fire District

(February 9, 2012)

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lacouture called the February meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:03pm. Present were commissioners Lacouture, Wilbur, Gallagher, Rooney Slater and Nievera. There were six members of the public in attendance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Caito reported beginning account balances to be \$219,814.31 as of December 8, 2011. Activity within the accounts brings the balance, as of January 10, 2012 to \$235,002.58. Mr. Nievera has compared the report of the treasurer with those from the bank and is satisfied with its accuracy. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Wilbur second) acceptance of the report of the treasurer. The motion carried unanimously.

After a recommendation from the treasurer, Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Nievera second) sending the Q3 payments to the organizations early to remain below our insured limit at the bank. The motion carried

unanimously.

Previous Month's Minutes

Mr. Gallagher moved (Mr. Rooney second) acceptance of the minutes of the January meeting as presented. 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 there were no communications of consequence to bring to the attention of the board. Operational mail has been given to the treasurer for her action.

Old Business

Mr. Lacouture voiced his opinion on the 2012 fire district budget as presented, indicating that the final figure would not be acceptable considering the state of the local economy.

Chief Chamberlain (EVFD#1) presented his budget with an increase of 5.5%. Mr. Wilbur asked if the increase could possibly be held to around 4.0%. Chief Chamberlain will bring his request back to his board and return at the budget hearing with the results of that discussion.

Chief Franklin (EVFC#2) presented his budget with an increase of

2.7%. There were no specific questions for him.

Dennis Colacone presented the EEDC budget request. Their increase is 7.2%. His salary and benefits line items were questioned at length. Mr. Lacouture suggested new figures with a more modest 2% or 3% increase.

Chief Colacone (Exeter Rescue Corps) presented the Rescue Corps budget with an increase of 4.3%. Of particular interest were the Chief's annual stipend of \$25,000 (a new line item) and a seemingly large dollar amount in the salary line item. The rationale for the stipend line item is that Mr. Colacone would become somewhat of an employee and take regular shifts on the rescue vehicle, thus postponing the need to hire another EMT.

When questioned on the salary line item, Mr. Colacone informed us that the Rescue Corps board of directors unilaterally voted to bring their union employees to parity, in one step, with neighboring communities. He reported using excess funds expected from an anticipated increase in the Rescue billing operation, with (apparently) no consideration of that actions' effect on subsequent budget cycles. Several of the commissioners were highly critical of this action, as well as the complete lack of communications between the Rescue Corps and the fire district commissioners. Chief Colacone will bring the commissioners' criticisms back to his board and enter into discussions with the union in an effort to correct this situation. He will report back to the commissioners at his earliest opportunity.

The Exeter Rescue Corps will continue to operate their old rescue truck as a "spare" causing a slight increase in operational costs.

They hope to use the spare as a vehicle for sporting/misc. events and utilize the billing income generated to pay down the note on the new vehicle.

Mr. Nievera indicated that he needed a press release to post around town, advertising the position on the board of commissioners currently held by Mr. Aker. Mr. Aker has declined to run again.

Mr. Nievera will have a delinquent report for the February 23rd meeting indicating that the figures will be more accurate after completion of the Q3 collection period.

New Business

Due to the lateness of the hour the remainder of the meeting was suspended until the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Exeter Fire District Board of Commissioners will be a budget hearing held on Thursday February 23, 2012. The meeting will be held in the Exeter Rescue Corps service building located at 669 Ten Rod Rd. That meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Nievera second) adjournment at 9:23pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

Exeter Fire District