

**Nasonville Fire District  
2577 Victory Highway  
Nasonville, Rhode Island 02830**

**October 31, 2015  
Annual Meeting Minutes of the Nasonville Fire District**

**Saturday October 31, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.**

**Meeting location:** Nasonville Fire Station, 2577 Victory Highway, Nasonville, Rhode Island.

1. **Call to Order.**
  - a. The District Moderator Attorney Mike Crane called the Annual Meeting to order at 1:07 pm.
2. **Reading of the Warrant.**
  - a. Mr. Crane read the meeting Public Notice and Warrant as it was stated in the Bargain Buyer on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
  - b. A motion was made by Normand Dalpe to amend the Warrant to make item number 9 Old Business, item number 10 New Business and item 11 Election of Officers. The motion was seconded by Thomas Marek. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
3. **Approve the minutes from the previous annual meeting October 18, 2014.**
  - a. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Bettie Hatzell and seconded by Sandy McKay. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
4. **Receive the Tax Assessor's Report.**
  - a. John Mainville read the Tax Assessor's Report. See report. No questions were asked by any of the public voters present.
  - b. Bob Allard made a motion to accept the Tax Assessor's Report. Barbara Pacheco seconded this motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
5. **Receive the Tax Collector's Report.**
  - a. John Mainville read the Tax Collector's Report. John stated that tax sales were held in conjunction with the town this year. He will be calculating the final tax rate.
  - b. Bob Allard made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report. Paul Wright seconded this motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
6. **Receive the Treasurer's Report.**
  - a. Ron Lapierre presented the Treasurer's Report.
  - b. Stephen Foy asked why so much had been spent on Legal Expenses and Ron Lapierre responded to this question. Normand Dalpe asked a question regarding a labor contract that was agreed to. Ron Lapierre responded that this question would be responded to later on during the meeting based on the agenda. A question was also asked about why there was a need to purchase a command vehicle and Ron Lapierre responded to this question.
  - c. Bettie Hatzell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Jenn Zuba seconded this motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.

**7. Receive the Chief's Report.**

- a. Chief Robert Howe presented the Annual Chief's Report. The Chief discussed the Activity for the year, Aid Given and recognized the members of the department present at the meeting and thanked them for their service.
- b. A motion was made by Michael Durvin to accept the Chief's report. The motion was seconded by Paul Wright. The motion was carried by all public voters present.

**8. Receive the Annual Fire District Board Chairperson's Report.**

- a. Janet Raymond gave the Chairperson's annual report and welcomed Robert Howe as Chief of the Department and recognized Chip Mainville as Deputy Chief.
- b. Janet Raymond discussed some of the projects that had been completed over the year and touched on the Coalition of District meetings that had been held.
- c. Gerry Lapierre made a motion to accept the Chair's report. Sue Gartland seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.

**9. Old Business.**

a. Union Negotiations Update

Labor Attorney Jeff Kasale provided the update on Union Negotiations stating that a contract had been negotiated with the union and went into effect on October 1, 2015. Mr. Kasale explained that the negotiations had been difficult because it was a brand new contract. He indicated that the union had requested health benefits as well as a pension and neither of these conditions were agreed to by the district. He also stated that the negotiations were successful because they avoided going to arbitration and the large expenses that are typically associated with this step. Normand Dalpe asked why that the residents of the district were not informed that a contract had been negotiated and signed without the approval of the residents. Mr. Kasale indicated that contract negotiations have not been a secret and had been discussed frequently at monthly fire district meetings. The Nasonville Fire District bylaws state "It shall have the power to enter into contracts and agreements with other parties for the purpose of serving any and all interest of the District, PROVIDED HOWEVER, that no contract or agreement shall be entered into for any new development or expansion program wherein the costs involved in such development or expansion shall exceed the sum of \$10,000.00 without first obtaining authority from the District, and PROVIDED FURTHER, that nothing herein contained shall limit the expenditure by said Operating Committee of any fund or appropriation set apart for its expressed usage in the carrying or and conducting of the usual and intended purposes of the said District." John Mainville disagreed with this interpretation of the bylaws and said he felt 24 hour staffing was a program change. Other residents also voiced their concerns regarding the contract that was negotiated and felt it was done without their knowledge.

**10. New Business.**

- a. Consider and approve a new budget for Fiscal Year 2016 (Oct 1, 2015 to Sept 30, 2016). Ron Lapierre reviewed the changes in expenses. He also provided projected expenses in the salary categories based on the union contract. Questions were asked by taxpayers about hose testing, fire equipment and fire gear and these questions were addressed by Chief Howe. Joe Raymond pointed out a \$3500 error in the FY15-FY16 Change\$ column. Ron Lapierre will review the formula and correct. Stephen Foy asked if a financial impact statement had been reviewed when preparing the budget numbers and Chief Howe explained what was looked at when determining the budget numbers. John Mainville and Kathy Mainville also asked if a fiscal impact statement was reviewed when preparing the budget. Attorney Kasale stated that the question had been previously answered. A motion was made by Sandy McKay to approve the budget of \$499,730 for FY 2016 and Kirsten Hatzell seconded the motion. One voter present did not approve the motion. All others in attendance approved the motion and the motion was passed.

- b. Consider and adopt a new tax levy. John Mainville made a motion that the tax levy not exceed \$370,000. Normand Dalpe seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
- c. 5 Year Plan. Gerry Lapierre, Clerk of the Works, provided information about some of the projects that had been completed over the past fiscal year: new air compressor, electrical work (GFI), portable generator, painting of building and resurfacing of parking area. Possible future projects that are being discussed include: converting existing storage closet to reception area/communications room, non-skid paint on the floor of the truck bays, future of Engine 31 (dispose of/sell), use of a truck bay as office/storage space, replace current boat with a Zodiac and solar panels.
- d. Part-Time Clerk Position. Ron Lapierre requested that discussion start about creating a part-time clerk position. He discussed the increase in the amount of reporting that is required by the state as well as the reporting required by the clerk. He proposed that a change be made to the bylaws in order to create the position. He stated that the salary paid would come from the stipends of the Treasurer, Tax Collector and District Clerk. Troy Phillips asked if this would eliminate the Tax Collector position and Ron Lapierre indicated that the position would not be eliminated but the clerk position would be an aid to the three existing positions and handle the day-to-day clerical tasks.
- e. Bylaw Changes.
  - i. John Mainville explained the Auditor General's interpretation of the word "auditor" in the fire district's bylaws would change the reporting requirements for the district. This change in the type of reporting that would be extremely costly to the district. He proposed changing the word "auditor" to the word "reviewer" in the bylaws. He stated that he had proposed the change to the Auditor General's office and they were in agreement with the change. Bettie Hatzell made a motion to make this change. Gerry Lapierre seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
  - ii. Ron Lapierre proposed that the bylaws be changed to state that any project or expansion proposed would require voter approval for any line item change. Paul Wright made a motion to make this change to the bylaws. Thomas Marek seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all public voters present.
- f. Any business that can be legally addressed.

**11. Election of Officers – Receive the slate of officers from the Nominating Committee.**

- a. Positions up for election:
  - i. Three-year terms: Operating Committee Board Member: Two positions.
  - ii. One-year terms: Tax Collector, Treasurer, Clerk, Moderator, Tax Assessor: (Three positions), Wardens: (Three positions), Auditor: (Three positions), Nomination Committee (Four positions).
  - iii. Mr. Crane read the Nominations Report Slate for the district positions available. Nominations listed as below.
  - iv. The Moderator asked for any nominations from the floor. Michael Durvin submitted his name as Tax Collector
  - v. Board member – Janet Raymond
    - 1. Motioned approved
  - vi. Board member – Paul Wright
    - 1. Motioned approved.
  - vii. Board member – vacant – nominations were Michael Durvin, Normand Dalpe, Troy Phillips. Written ballots results: Normand Dalpe 29 votes, Michael Durvin 10 votes, Troy Phillips 8 votes. Normand Dalpe was appointed to complete the remainder of the vacant three year term. Position will be up for election in 2016.

- viii. Tax Collector – Michael Durvin withdrew his name. John Mainville was appointed.
  - 1. Motioned approved
- ix. Treasurer – Ron Lapierre
  - 1. Motioned approved
- x. Clerk – Christine Chretien
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xi. Tax Assessor – Barbara Pacheco
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xii. Tax Assessor -
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xiii. Tax Assessor – Jeanne Davis
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xiv. Warden – David Mainville
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xv. Warden – Jake Haggerty
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xvi. Warden – vacant
- xvii. Auditor – Beverly St. Onge
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xviii. Auditor – Anne Chretien
  - 1. Motion approved
- xix. Auditor – Stephen Foy
  - 1. Motion approved
- xx. Nomination Committee – Sandy McKay
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xxi. Nomination Committee – Kirstin Hatzell
  - 1. Motioned approved
- xxii. Nomination Committee - vacant
- xxiii. Nomination Committee - vacant

12. **Meeting Adjournment** – Hearing no additional questions or comments, Bob Allard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Sandy McKay and the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Christine A. Chretien  
District Clerk