

# HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 360 – 194 Putnam Pike  
Harmony, R.I. 02829

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on Thursday, October 16, 2008.

Present: Chief Stuart Pearson; Moderator - Raymond Fogarty, Jr.;  
Tax Collector - Kimberly Barber; Attorney - Fred Mason, Jr.;  
Board Members - Louise Michaels, James Richards,  
Milton Huston & George Kain

Absent: Treasurer - Sandra Owens & Clerk - Ann Dahlquist

I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:03 pm by Moderator Fogarty.

II. - Approval of the minutes from the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Milton made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. - Treasurer's Report:

There was no report available due to Sandy's absence.

IV. - Tax Collector's Report:

Taxes receivable balance is \$143,123.18 as of today's date. Taxes collected in the month of September were \$80,775.32. Third party billing monies collected in the month of September totaled \$9,133.65. Monies collected for smoke inspections, plan reviews, incident report requests were \$365.00 in the month of September. Of this the Chief performed 7 smoke inspections and 3 plan reviews, and I had 2 incident report requests.

Ray asked about the Tax Exemption Committee, if there had been a group put together yet. Kim informed the board that she had contacted a Harmony resident and CPA, Anthony Milia and he had suggested another CPA from Glocester, Greg Minor. Besides them the committee consists of board member George Kain, Harmony resident and Glocester Tax Assessor Viviane Valentine, Kim and the Chief.

Louise made a motion to accept the tax collector's report. George seconded it. The motion carried.

V. - Chief's Report:

As the board had requested at the last meeting a letter was sent to the "Greggson Foundation" asking for a grant of \$40,000.00 towards the purchase of the new rescue. No reply has yet been received.

Ray asked if by the next meeting we could have a cost estimate for the rescue, for finance purposes. The Chief said that actually last night there was a meeting of the truck committee. Each member was assigned a task to research. They will be getting back together in approximately 3 weeks to discuss their findings. They are also soliciting 3 vendors for information. Jim stated that depending on which chassis they go with the \$160,000.00 we had originally estimated should be right in the ballpark of what we will actually be spending. Ray asked what the balance in the truck fund currently is. Louise said that last month it was \$111,000.00 according to the minutes. So, Ray said if we get the \$40,000.00 from the "Greggson Foundation" we might not have to do another \$45,000.00 on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We also have the trade-in value to take into consideration, maybe about \$15,000.00. Milton asked if we normally trade-in the old vehicle to the company we are buying the new one from. Jim said that they usually do, but they would put in a contingency clause reserving the right to withdraw the trade should the value is not acceptable.

Kim and the Chief met with the Gloucester Building Inspector, Larry Desormier and his staff to discuss the upcoming Alternative Heating Workshop, as well as plan reviews and other miscellaneous items. It went very well and was very informative. Ray asked if the other 2 Gloucester fire districts were going to join us in the workshop. The Chief said that Dennis Foster of Chepachet was present at this meeting and that he had invited him to come and make a presentation. The town had offered the use of the Gloucester Senior Center if it was needed, but we said that we would like to keep the event in Harmony, as long as the expected crowd size would permit it, especially parking wise. The building inspector, S & M Heating, Frederickson Farm and Farm Family Insurance were the only responders to our letters and they will all be participating in the workshop. The State Fire Marshall's office will not be able to send a representative, but they will be supplying us with materials for a presentation. Kim stated that the Department of Health would also be supplying us with copies of their new carbon monoxide brochures. Louise asked about advertising for the workshop. The Chief said that he and Kim have already started to put together a flyer and they would be targeting the Observer, the Bargain Buyer, the Cox Community Calendar and the Foster Home Journal for advertising. Louise also asked about the refreshments, had we considered approaching the Dunkin Donuts in town for a donation? Kim said that the whole group would be getting together on Tuesday morning and we would be going over these details then.

Next the Chief mentioned that on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month our department, along with the West Gloucester Fire Department and the Northern RI League, had a drill at the Fogarty Memorial School.

The Steak Fry was a great success this year. They made approximately \$11,000.00 this year, which makes it the most successful ever. There were a lot of people in attendance and it was a lot of fun.

The Chief also announced that on October 8<sup>th</sup> board member and Retired Deputy Chief George Kain received the RI State Firemen's League 2008 Fire Fighter of the Year Award. The banquet was held at the Greenville Inn and many members of the department along with the Chief, Kim and Ray were in attendance.

Louise made a motion to officially congratulate George on behalf of the board. Milton seconded it. The motion carried.

Lastly, the Chief wanted to inform the board that he and Kim had recently reviewed the Strategic Plan to make sure we were on target with the short-term goals we had set to achieve. We are on target and believe we are actually maybe a bit ahead of schedule. Also, the Chief has been in contact with someone he knows at the International Association of Fire Chiefs regarding an article we would like to submit to their publication, "On Scene", about our Strategic Plan. Ray suggested that if it is published we could perhaps do a special mailing of it, since we would be receiving international distinction.

Jim asked the Chief if the department had ever purchased the Pulse-Ox machine they had looked at the Springfield Expo over the summer. He replied that it was and is now on the rescue.

George asked about the ongoing problems with the communications tower. The Chief replied that a meeting had taken place between the 3 fire chiefs, the Gloucester Police Chief and the company that came in to do the communications work within the town. It was discovered at that time that they didn't install the antennas correctly. To fix this, 6 new antennas and 1,000 feet of cable were ordered two weeks ago and we are just waiting for everything to come in. The Chief is hoping that the new antennas, which will be mounted higher on the towers, will go up in November. The ultimate goal would be to simulcast our communications, perhaps at the new middle school tower. That would require FCC permission, lots more funding and will not happen in the near future. Some discussion followed.

Jim made a motion to accept the chief's report. Louise seconded it. The motion carried.

#### VI. - Committee Reports:

- a. Building Committee - Milton, Chair - The renovation is progressing well. Milton had actually stopped by while the contractor was working one day and noted that they were doing a good job. His question to the Chief was if the Association had any questions of the board regarding the finances. The Chief said that the Association had formed a small committee of 2 members to research and purchase the appliances for the project. This committee would then report back to the Association at their next bi-monthly meeting. The Chief stated that he anticipated the project to be completed within approximately the next 3 weeks.
- b. Truck Committee - Jim, Chair – discussion provided in Chief's Report

#### VII. - Old Business: Addressed throughout reports.

VIII. - New Business: Ray asked if our board meetings could be posted on the HFD website. Jim said it would be no problem. Kim also mentioned that our meeting dates are posted on the Town of Gloucester website on their calendar.

IX. - Public Input: No audience present.

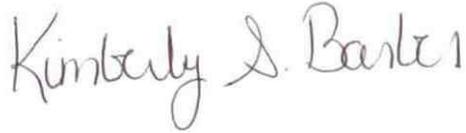
X. - Executive Session: None called.

XI. – Adjournment:

Milton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. George seconded it. The motion carried.  
The October meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board  
is scheduled for Thursday, 7:00 pm, November 20, 2008 at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly S. Barber".

Kimberly S. Barber  
Tax Collector/Secretary