

HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING 6/4/2011

Present: Chief Stuart Pearson; Moderator - Raymond Fogarty, Jr.;
Board Members – Milton Huston, George Kain & Louise Michaels
Treasurer - Sandra Owens; Tax Collector/Clerk - Kimberly Barber;
Attorney - Fred Mason, Jr.

Absent: Board Member – James Richards

I. – Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 am by Moderator Fogarty.

II. – Reading of Warrant by Tax Collector/Clerk Kimberly Barber.

III. – Election Results Announced –

Moderator Fogarty read the results of the voting for this annual meeting.

The results were as follows:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Votes Received</i>
Moderator	(1) year	Raymond Fogarty	11
Treasurer	(1) year	Sandra S. Owens	11
Exec. Committee	(4) years	Louise Michaels	11

IV. - Approval of the Minutes from June 5, 2010 Annual Meeting.

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

George made a motion to accept the minutes. Milt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. – Moderator Opening Remarks –

Ray introduced himself and asked the other members of the district board to introduce themselves as well.

The Moderator thanked the Overseers of the Voting Polls, Alyce Mack and Susan Walsh.

Ray also noted that the legislation for the Harmony Fire District Charter changes are currently on Governor Chaffee's desk awaiting his signature.

VI. – Chief's Report –

Chief Pearson presented his written report to the audience. He explained that the report is a collection data explaining the activities, training and improvements made for the year 2010-2011. Of that there were 558 calls and many hours of training. He asked the audience for any questions. There were none.

Louise made a motion to accept the Chief's Report. Milt seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. – Treasurer's Report –

The current balance as of April 30, 2011 is \$327,292.91. With third party billing approaching \$80,000 this year, it has helped our bottom line tremendously.

Milt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. – Tax Collector's Report –

Taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$91,965.43. That is slightly less than last year at this time. Many payment plans have been set up and partial payments have been being made on several accounts. Past due notices have been sent and the Tax Sale is scheduled for September 27th this year. Ray asked if there were any questions for Kim. There were none.

Louise made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. – Budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 –

Ray stated that overall there is a 4% increase in our budget this year. There have been some increased line items this year that were beyond our control; insurance, oil, gas. He also commented that the current cash flow is equivalent to last year and up from two years ago. Although we are proposing a tax rate increase not to exceed \$1.48 per/thousand, the Property Revaluations are decreasing property values. Therefore tax bills will be comparable to what tax payers saw last year.

Administration: Proposed \$68,274

George made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Milt. Sandy noted the new line item – IT/Support (G/L #60150) for \$7,000. With this item being created the account of Office Expense (G/L # 60125) has been reduced by 50%. Kim stated that the Office Expense account had been being utilized for items such as website maintenance, tax and fire programs support and back-up service, internet service, etc. There were no questions on this category, so a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Proposed \$301,217

Milt made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Louise. The Chief's Salary (G/L #60210) was increased according to his contract and Administrative Salary (G/L #60200) was increased by 3%. Per/Diem EMS Personnel town wide (G/L #60211) received a \$.50 per/hour raise and Volunteer Call Pay (G/L #60205) was increased by \$.50 per/call. Chief Pearson stated that the last time the Per/Diem EMS Personnel received a raise was 3 years ago. Linda Ferragamo asked if the Per/Diem program was paid for out of the third party billing revenue. If we earn more third party revenue than we pay out does the extra money go into the general fund. Ray stated that the Per/Diem program cost is \$65,000 plus payroll tax expense, so the revenue should just cover the expense. She asked if we get reimbursed for our mutual aid runs to Smithfield and Chepachet. The Chief replied, yes we do. There were no more questions so a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Fire Protection/Equipment/Operations.: Proposed \$63,700

Sandy stated that this section did not have any changes from last year's budget. Ray asked what the balance now was in the truck fund with this additional \$30,000 we have budgeted. Sandy stated that today there is approximately \$31,000 today, so \$61,000 with this additional \$30,000. Louise made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Milt. There were no questions in this category, so a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Maintenance: Proposed \$32,100

Ray stated that this account has gone up 10% this year. The Chief stated that most of the vehicle maintenance cannot be done in-house anymore and has to be sent out to be done, therefore an increase to that expense. Milt made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Louise. There were no questions on this category, so a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Building & Grounds: Proposed \$38,500

Sandy stated that this section has our largest increase. Heat and oil prices are a big unknown, fluctuating wildly and are hard to estimate. Electric is not as dramatic. Heat we are estimating at \$3.59 per/gal for 450 gallons, hopefully it will not go up this badly.

Milt made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Louise. There were no questions on this category, so a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Other: Proposed \$26,600

Sandy stated that this section covers the Annual Banquet, Life Insurance, Fire Prevention, Uniforms and Recognition. We have only increased this sections budget slightly. George made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Louise. There were no questions on this category, so a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Louise made a motion to accept the total operating budget of \$530,391 for fiscal year 2011/2012. Milt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ray stated that the board was very aware of the taxpayers financial issues and he thanked Mr. Nadeau for coming. Mr. Nadeau stated that he wished we were able to get the reevaluation figures from the town earlier. He hopes our figures will be OK with what we think our revenue will be. He sees that we are trying to accommodate taxpayers and he appreciates it. Ray and Sandy assured him that the figures are an estimate but they should be fine. Sandy also mentioned that we had opted not to tax Automobiles. Mr. Nadeau agreed with that decision.

X. – Capital Improvement Fund for fiscal Year 2011/2012 –

Ray stated that capital improvements are very important to a facility in order to keep everything up to date and in good working order. The Chief explained that this year we are proposing to do Facility Improvements such as bathroom upgrades, plumbing, etc. George explained that he had brought RISE in here to do an electrical study and those changes will also be included. He stated that National Grid will pay 70% of this expense. This expenditure will pay for itself in 1-1/2 years. George explained many of the payment options, lump sum at 15% discount or payment plans. Mr. Nadeau asked which payment option we would go with. Sandy replied that a 15% discount could not be passed up.

It is proposed to use the Capital Improvement fund of \$30,000 for the upcoming year to fund an account titled Facility Improvements.

Milt made a motion to accept the amount requested for Facility Improvements in the amount of \$30,000. Louise seconded the motion. There were no questions on this category, so a vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Sandy wanted to note that there will be a carryover of unfinished items from the fiscal year 2010/2011. \$1,352 for Personnel – HR Manual (G/L #61117) and \$1,000 for Efficiency Improvements (G/L #61119).

George made a motion to accept the total budget amount proposed at \$560,391 for fiscal year 2011/2012. Milt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ray wanted to make note that the legislation for the Harmony Fire District's Charter changes is currently on the Governor's desk waiting to be signed. He will be visiting him on Monday at 3:00pm. Ray wanted to extended his thanks again to George and Kim for completing this project. They went over and above with the amount of hours they put into it. We now have a Strategic Plan, and updated Charter and By-Laws and are currently working on a Personnel Manual. Milt, the Chief and Kim are working together on this project and will have it ready to present at next year's annual meeting. Hopefully next year we will also have some exciting developments to announce with the Broadband project also.

We are one of the most active fire districts in the state for going after grant monies. We do have a couple outstanding grants that we applied for this year that we still haven't received a reply for. This is primarily the reason why we have been able to reduce our taxes by more than 20% over the past 7 years.

XI. – Tax Rate for fiscal year 2011/2012 –

The Gloucester Property Tax Revaluation dropped the average bill by approximately \$.26 per/thousand, so in order to at least keep the anticipated tax revenue the same this coming year the tax rate had to be raised by the same amount. This should not show an increase on the average tax payers bill.

Milt made a motion that the tax rate for fiscal year 2011/2012 not exceed One Dollar and Forty-Eight Cents (\$1.48) per thousand dollars of evaluation. Louise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. – Resolutions/ Recognition –

Ray mentioned that the Annual Banquet is where the volunteers are recognized, but we would like to recognize a couple of board members tonight. Ray asked the Chief and Kim to come up to make their presentations.

We would like to thank Sandra Owens who as Treasurer consistently does more unpaid hard work for the district than any of the other board members. She has held this

position for 20 Years and deserves to be recognized. She was presented with a crystal vase and fresh flowers. Sandy was given a round of applause.

Next we would like to thank Ann Dahlquist who has given 12 Years of Service to the Harmony Fire District. She has served as an executive board member and also as clerk. She was also presented with a crystal vase and fresh flowers. Ann was given a round of applause.

Ray did not want to fail to thank the crew members for their dedication to the department. Their professionalism is recognized by everyone throughout the district. Everyone appreciates what they do. He asked that the crew members present relay these messages to the other crew members not present.

George and Ray both wanted to thank Attorney Mason for the work he does for the district. He is present at all of our meetings without fail. We appreciate what he does.

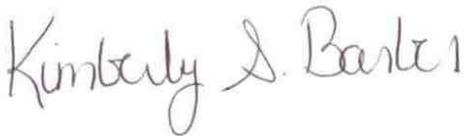
George also wanted to mention to our audience the fact that at our last meeting our local elected officials were present with the RIDOT to discuss the roadwork needed in Harmony. Safety is the board's major concern. Alyce Mack agreed saying that she has called about pot holes several time. The board agreed that these issues need to be followed up on and there will be another meeting scheduled at some point.

XII. – Adjournment –

Louise made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Milt seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

The annual meeting of the Harmony Fire District was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Clerk