

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, November 15, 2012.**

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

Absent: Association Representative – Linda Ferragamo, President – excused

I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 pm by Moderator Fogarty.

II. - Approval of the minutes from the October 18th meeting.

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the October 18th meeting. If there are no corrections, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Milt made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. – Approval of Bills:

A check register of bills to be paid was provided to all board members in their folder. Moderator Fogarty asked if there were any questions. As the board reviewed the report Kim mentioned that the largest payouts were for the building loan and the accident & sickness insurance policy. Ray asked if Sandy or Kim could remember when the payoff date is on the building loan. They agreed that it was still a long way off, approximately 2023.

Moderator Fogarty called for a motion to approve the bills. George made a motion to approve the bills. Milt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. - Treasurer's Report:

Sandy stated that she had 2 statements, August and September, to present tonight. Beginning balance August 1st \$335,453.79 and ending balance August 31st \$584,556.02. August expenses were pretty routine. Revenue was good, due to the tax bills being sent out.

Beginning balance September 1st \$584,556.02 and ending balance September 30th \$612,525.46. Tax revenue still coming in steadily and third party billing revenue is healthy. The \$30,000 has been transferred to the truck fund in a Money Market Fund giving almost 1% of interest.

Another Money Market account was also created with \$90,000.

Ray asked about the collective fund balance. Had Sandy had been able to look at that yet, regarding the transfer amount for the truck fund. She said she had not, she's been traveling on business quite a lot. However she said that the combined balance had not hit a \$600,000 month ending balance in a really long time. He said that they were just thinking of transferring some of

that money into the truck fund, instead of letting it sit there. Sandy mentioned that there would also still need to be a special meeting held. She said she would not be able to get to it before the end of the year, but would definitely have it done before the January meeting.

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

V. - Tax Collector's Report:

Taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$158,348.21.

Taxes collected in the month of October were \$4,598.50.

Third party billing was healthy in the month of October, \$7,528.90.

Kim mentioned that a taxpayer was supposed to send her an e-mail today to present to the board on her behalf at the meeting tonight. However it was never received. What she was asking for was another payment plan on her account. Kim had set her up on one last year, which she defaulted with no payments having been received. Kim noted that it is clearly stated in the written plan that should it go into default, it will not be offered again. Therefore her only option would be to come before the board to ask for help. Kim also stated that a verbal agreement had been in affect before the written. Ray asked her to check with Viviane to see if she is in arrears with the town as well. The board members all showed concern and stated that the taxpayer was welcome to attend their next meeting on January 17th should she chose to do so. That would be the day before the tax sale is held.

Jim made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's report. Milt seconded it.
The motion carried unanimously.

VI. - Chief's Report:

Thank you note received from Shirley Plante for floral arrangement sent upon her husband Jerome's passing.

Private Michael Grenga just had his appendix removed & is home recuperating. A gift basket was sent on behalf of the board.

Another thank you note and small donation was received from resident Joan Hackett for assistance given at her home in a time of need.

Additionally, a man named Tim Steere, whose family was originally from Harmony, stopped by the station to donate a bunch of t-shirts. The t-shirts are printed with a poem he wrote to pay tribute to first responders everywhere. The Chief said he didn't get to speak with him personally but Kim did and she said he was a very humble, generous person. He displayed a t-shirt for everyone to view.

2 new members with experience have joined and another has picked up an application. A 2 day *Basic Land Navigation Course* at Camp Fogarty was attended by Lt John Falco and Privates Tom Malott & Billy Forte. Tom and Billy are now moving on to the next level, which is a *Nighttime Navigation Course*.

The Generator went down during the power outage that occurred before Hurricane Sandy. It was discovered that the coolant tank cap was broken and it has been repaired. Ray asked how old the Generator was. The Chief replied it was about 10 years old and still had a lot of life left in it.

The issues with electric circuits for the outside lighting have been resolved and they are now working properly.

Additionally, we also had an issue with the Plymovent system where it was not working and had to be serviced.

A \$31,500 grant was submitted to *FEMA's Innovation Challenge* for Mobile Data Terminals with GIS and WebEOC technology. Award recipients will be notified by the end of November and funded in December.

Hurricane Sandy Notes:

All aspects flowed smoothly. E-mails were sent to the board sporadically to keep everyone informed. We asked crew members to be in the building to be proactive and had 16 here. Their hours varied, but we had every truck manned. There were 19 calls for service in Harmony in 12 hours, 3 in Chepachet and in 1 West Glocester. The crew members participating will be paid out as a detail and there will be no FEMA reimbursement available. As requested by the board during contract negotiations, the Chief also presented a report compiling his accrued comp. time of 18 hours due to the Hurricane. The Chief also wanted to note that the new Glocester EMA Director, Jason Rhodes, did a great job keeping everyone up-to-date with information.

RIAFC Foundation Inaugural Honor Flight:

Trip was simply amazing! It was very emotional for everyone involved. Articles were on display for the board to review. The Chief said if anyone on the board knew of any veteran who would like to participate, please encourage them to do so. Applications are available on the RIAFC Foundation website. There is another flight scheduled for April and the list has gone from 10 to 29 in an instant, the oldest applicant being 96 years old. The foundation is trying to get to them all as fast as possible, so no one misses out. Just this last month 37 World War II Veterans in RI have passed away, with 7 in this past week alone. The Chief also wanted to note that the Glocester Honor Guard was at TF Green at 10 pm to greet the group with a warm welcome when they arrived home. They did a great job! Further discussion followed.

Louise made a motion to accept the Chief's report. George seconded it.

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

Due to the Association representatives absence this report has been tabled.

At this point the Chief reminded everyone that the Tree Lighting is November 25th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving as always.

VIII. - Committee Reports:

a. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton, Chair

Milt reported that he will continue to review it, as it is a working document. It is pretty much done, but he would like input from the rest of the board. Ray asked him to target the January meeting for completion.

- b. Broadband Work Team – Milton & Stephen Kut, Co-Chairs
Milt stated that he wasn't quite sure where we stood with the Broadband. However it had peaked his interest when he heard the Chief discuss the grant he had submitted for the mobile data stations. The Chief explained that it was an opportunity that presented itself and he worked with the information Milt had already put together in the past along with some thoughts and ideas that our IT consultant came up with. The maximum we could apply for was \$35,000 and we put in for \$31,500. If this comes in, maybe we can put it together with some outside funding to get the ball rolling. Milt asked if the mobile data stations would connect through the radio frequencies or wireless internet? The Chief said it was wireless through cellular, so it was a broadband application. It will also be interfaced with the GIS.

Ray suggested that in the near future we should have a meeting of the original broadband committee and several members of the community with medical and technology backgrounds. At this meeting we would invite speakers to talk about Broadband as it relates to First Responders. Especially since the RIEDC has called us and expressed their regret at not funding our project originally.

- c. Property Review Work Team – George & Louise, Co-Chairs
No new information at this time.
- d. Apparatus Review Work Team – Jim Richards, Chair
George stated that they were still gathering information including weights. Until the needs are narrowed down they cannot come up with an estimated dollar amount. Milt asked what type of apparatus they are considering. Jim stated that it would be more of a heavy rescue type of vehicle to carry all the necessary equipment. Louise asked if it would respond to all calls. Jim stated no, it would be more for motor vehicle accidents where jaws-of-life and other heavy equipment is required. The Chief also stated that it would be used for water emergencies, trees downed, etc. The work team is also carefully considering what resources are available mutual aid within town and trying to fill a necessary need without duplication.

Ray asked the work team to target the January meeting for providing the estimate. He stated that fiscally we may be able to make the purchase after the start of the new fiscal year, but that depends on the cost and if we can get outside funding to help. However it may be 1 to 2 years before we are actually ready.

The Chief stated that the work team is making their recommendation to the board to put the old Engine up for sale for \$10,000. George suggested American Historical Fire Apparatus to advertise and will get the information to the Chief about membership required to place the advertisement.

IX. - Old Business:

- a. Update on RIDOT proposed Roadwork in Harmony.
Ray stated that the new State of RI Dept. of Transportation Plan (245 pages) has been released. He suggested that we invite them to our February meeting to go over this plan. George asked again about the crosswalk out front. Ray said that this should be an immediate request forwarded to Senator Fogarty and Representative Winfield. Kim will have letters prepared for our January meeting, with our previous letters attached. Some discussion followed.

b. District/Town-wide Coverage

The Chief stated that he will meet again in 2 weeks with the other 2 Fire Chiefs as reported last month. At this meeting they will pick 3 dates to bring back to their district boards to select a meeting date for the full committee to meet again and present the report of their fact finding. This fact finding includes response after midnight, what time periods are our vulnerable areas, etc. Ray stated that at the meeting in September it was estimated it would cost each district approximately \$25,000 to implement a second shift utilizing one rescue. He asked what the general consensus on the coverage issue was. The Chief stated that everyone he spoke to was on board. Our coverage issues go in peaks and valleys and it is the same with the other 2 districts, with no rhyme or reason anywhere. So with that being said he stated that he always tries to be proactive. We do not want to wait until it is too late and then after something bad happens try to come up with a solution. George stated that Oakland-Mapleville Fire Department and Nasonville Fire Department are also addressing these same issues right now. He will check with Chief Bertholic of OMFD and see what they have come up with.

X. - New Business:

Ray stated that the Chief and himself have met with Alex and Ani's Charity by Design Division. They are working together to create a First Responders Bangle. The Chief said that they discussed the scope encompassed by First Responders. It includes a lot of professions and touches a lot of people's lives. This project would start nationally and then eventually go international. The board thanked Ray for coming up with this idea and initiating discussions. Further discussion followed.

XI. - Public Input: No audience.

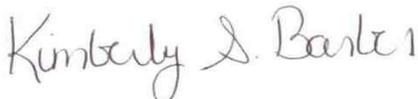
XII. – Executive Session: None called.

XIII. – Adjournment:

Milt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The November meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **8:02 pm**.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board is scheduled for **Thursday, 7:00 pm, January 17, 2013** at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Secretary