

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 18, 2012.**

Present: Chief Stuart Pearson; Attorney - Fred Mason, Jr.;
Tax Collector/Clerk - Kimberly Barber;
Board Members – Louise Michaels, Jim Richards & George Kain

Absent: Moderator - Raymond Fogarty – excused;
Treasurer – Sandra Owens – excused;
Board Member – Milton Huston;
Association Representative – Linda Ferragamo, President – excused

I. – Meeting Called to Order: The Executive Board Members have appointed George to stand-in as Moderator for this meeting due to Ray’s absence. Therefore the meeting was called to order at **7:07 pm** by acting Moderator George Kain.

At this time Chief Pearson requested a **Moment of Silence for Jerome Plante**, a life member of the department whom had recently passed away.

II. – Approval of the minutes from the September 20th meeting:

George asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the September 20th meeting. If there are no corrections, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Louise 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. George asked if there were any comments or questions on these expenses. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Kim commented that the largest payout was to VFIS for our insurance. The Chief mentioned that VFIS has now separated our Accident & Sickness policy from the other 2 fire districts, where it had always been combined in the past. Also, our rep. for VFIS, Judi Parman, is now semi-retired, so we have been assigned to a new one, Margaret Standish.

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

IV. – Treasurer’s Report:

Due to Sandy’s absence the Treasurer’s Report was tabled.

Kim also mentioned that the analysis regarding the transfer of general funds to the truck fund was not available, so that recommendation will have to be put off until the next meeting.

V. – Tax Collector’s Report:

The taxes receivable balance as of today’s date is \$184,963.65.

Taxes collected in the month of September were \$57,677.67.

Third party billing in the month of September, \$10,925.83.

Kim provided a follow-up on the letter she had sent to Tom Angellone, RIDEM, regarding reimbursement for our drinking water purchases. She stated that she had received a phone call from Mr. Angellone and he told her that his office cannot assist us, but he will look into it to see if he can find out who can.

90 Day Notices are being mailed tomorrow for the Tax Sale to be held on January 18, 2013.

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

VI. – Chief’s Report:

Three crew members are currently attending a Firefighter I Class hosted by West Gloucester FD that will run through the end of November. Those attending are: Alison Philbrick, Justin Chere and James Grande.

A CPAP Seminar was hosted by Chepachet FD. Two members attending were: Lt. Kevin Farley and Private Mike Grenga. CPAP is a breathing device we have on the truck that helps people with COPD.

For the first time ever the Harmony Hill School requested Captain Plante to come there so they could participate in Fire Prevention Week activities. Fogarty and West Gloucester Elementary Schools have put their programs off one week until October 23rd & 24th, due to NECAP testing.

Flu vaccination clinics are on-going through the Gloucester EMA. There is a notice enclosed in everyone’s folder with the dates listed. They are also posted on our website and on our FaceBook page.

Charlie Poirier, a representative from Firematic, came in to host a drill to demonstrate to the crew our new piece of equipment, a vehicle stabilization kit.

As a Fire Commissioner on the state Fire Code Board of Appeal & Review the Chief reported that hearings have been lengthy during the process of updating the RI Fire Safety Code. A new code will be adopted by January 1, 2013 and it will be the NFPA 1 & 101 Life Safety Code, 2012 edition.

This past Monday there was a Gloucester Safety Commission meeting. General discussion included the intersection of Snake Hill and Saw Mill roads. Coming north bound on Saw Mill Road, the fence there makes it quite difficult to see oncoming traffic. This issue has been referred to the state, since these are both state roads.

On Tuesday evening there was an Officers meeting held. Topics discussed included success of the new Duty Night Program, status of the SOP/SOG updates and a drill schedule to go through the end of the calendar year.

An Apparatus Review meeting was held on Wednesday evening. In attendance were the Chief, the Deputy Chief, George K. and Private George Nichols. A report from this meeting will be given later during this meeting. Lt. Falco was working and not able to attend.

The Chief also reiterated his message from last month, that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and we have pink t-shirts available for sale at \$15 each. Proceeds will be donated by the Association to benefit breast cancer research. Jim asked how many we sold and the Chief said that we have 8 left of the 36 ordered.

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

VII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

Due to the absence of an Association Representative, the Chief gave a brief update on Association events.

The Steak Fry went quite well this year and made approximately \$9,000.

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, November 25th this year. The committee has met a couple of times now and preparations are coming right along. Jim asked if this is an Association event or a District one? George said that Kim and the Chief help, but it is an Association event. The Chief clarified that the committee is made up of his wife Ruth, Kim, Privates Kim P., Linda F. and Bianca, as well as Linda Noonan. Lt. Falco also helps with decorations each year. The Chief noted that due to the efforts of the committee last year we received many donations to assist with the cost of the event, as well as the \$1,000 appropriated by the Association.

The next Association meeting will be in two weeks on November 5th and the Chief stated that President Ferragamo has been doing quite well at her position.

Jim made a motion to accept the Association's report as presented by the Chief. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. – Committee Reports:

- a. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton, Chair
Due to Milton's absence this report was tabled.

- b. Broadband Work Team – Milton & Stephen Kut, Co-Chairs
Due to Milton's absence this report was tabled.

- c. Property Review Work Team – George & Louise, Co-Chairs
The Co-Chairs stated that a new meeting date will be set.

IX. – Old Business:

- a. Update on RIDOT proposed Roadwork in Harmony –
At the recent Gloucester Safety Commission meeting the Chief inquired from the Public Works Director Gary Treml if he had any updates. He said that the money has been appropriated from the state for the work in Chepachet, but none for the work in Harmony yet.
- b. Apparatus Review –
Jim stated that as the Chief had mentioned earlier the Apparatus Review work team had a meeting last night. Quite a few issues were ironed out and they will be meeting again, November 13th, which is before our next district board meeting. Therefore the group hopes to be able to fill in more of the blanks about what kind of a truck they will be looking for at that board meeting. Kim suggested to the board that this “Apparatus Review” be moved on the agenda to “Committee Reports” now that a work team has been formed. The board agreed with this suggestion. Discussion followed regarding the work teams research on the apparatus needs of the department.
- c. District/Town-wide Coverage –
No new meetings have been held since September. The Chief stated that input from the other 2 fire districts Chiefs in general conversation since that meeting has been very supportive. They are also very anxious and willing to get together again. He feels that another meeting should be scheduled for late November or early December.

X. – New Business:

Louise asked how the first Flu Vaccination clinic had gone? She asked because she had heard that Scituate was offering vaccinations at their voting polls this year and she thought it was a great idea. The board agreed. The Chief asked Kim to send an e-mail to the Gloucester EMA Director Jason Rhodes tomorrow with this suggestion.

George reported to the board that he had recently attended the RI State Firemen’s League Presidents Dinner at the Quidnessett Country Club in North Kingstown. At this dinner Chief Fred Stanley of the Hope Valley FD received the Firefighter of the Year Award. He became Chief in the 60’s and at approximately 76 years old he is still going strong in many areas of the fire service. George sat on the nominating committee along with retired Chiefs Joseph Bertholic and Otis Wyatt.

George also said that he had ridden to the above event with the Oakland-Mapleville Fire Chief Joe Bertholic, Jr. and found that they are ready to go with night time manpower at his station, as well as the Nasonville station. He is sure the Chief probably already knows all about this, but he will report more on their progress as he hears also.

Jim asked if the Chief had heard anything about what is going on in the Central Coventry Fire District. He stated that he has spoken to their former Fire Chief Robert Seltzer, who is now the

Chief in Smithfield. It is an unfortunate political battle that is affecting their entire fire district. Further discussion followed regarding this matter as well as Open Meetings Law and transparency in government bodies today.

XI. – Public Input: No audience.

XII. – Executive Session: None called.

XIII. – Adjournment:

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The October meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **7:32 pm**.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board is scheduled for **Thursday, 7:00 pm, November 15, 2012** at the Harmony Fire Station.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Clerk