

# 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, September 20, 2012.**

Present: Moderator – Raymond Fogarty, Jr.; Chief Stuart Pearson;  
Treasurer – Sandra Owens; Tax Collector/Clerk – Kimberly Barber;  
Board Members – Louise Michaels, George Kain & James Richards;  
Attorney – Fred Mason, Jr.;  
Association Representative – Linda Ferragamo, President

Absent: Board Member – Milton Huston (excused)

**I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:08 pm** by Moderator Fogarty.

**II. - Approval of the minutes from the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. If there are no corrections, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

George made a motion to accept the minutes. Louise 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 comments or questions on these expenses. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Louise asked what the bill was for that was paid to the Chepachet Fire District? Kim replied that it was Harmony's 1/3 of an expense for the training site that was paid by Chepachet.

George asked about the payouts to the Brackett's. Kim replied that it was a call-pay pay out. He asked if they had been sent yet. She said no, they are in the folder to be signed and approved tonight. The Chief said that this would be explained further during an executive session to be called later during this meeting.

Jim asked about the large payment to Firematic. Kim replied that it was for replacement turn out gear and the purchase of vehicle stabilization equipment for use on the engine. Sandy added this was also reflected in the expense line item in her report due to a journal enter made at year end.

Louise made a motion to approve the bills. Jim seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. - Treasurer's Report:**

Sandy gave an amended Treasurer's Report for June and the regular monthly report for July.

The balances for June were unchanged. The report just had to be amended to reflect the reappropriation of funds voted on at the May meeting. This effected the expense accounts: Vehicle Maintenance (G/L 60410), Radios (G/L 60310), Heat (G/L 60510) and Fuel (G/L 60420).

The beginning balance July 1<sup>st</sup> was \$322,481.48 and the ending balance July 31<sup>st</sup> was \$335,453.79. There were routine expenses in July. You will notice some credit balances in accounts that will be offset when the bills are paid in July or August. This is due to reversing Journal entries that Kim made in June to appropriate expenses to the correct fiscal year budget. These entries were prepared according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Ray asked about the Truck Fund balance of \$61,000 does this include this year's contribution of \$30,000? Sandy replied no not yet. The check has just been cut and will be deposited in the truck fund. Ray continued to say that next July 1<sup>st</sup> we will have \$121,000 in the truck fund then. But looking at our fund balance, which is quite healthy due to third party billing revenue coming in better than expected, he would like to know what she would recommend as an appropriate amount to transfer to the Truck Fund to move that balance ahead quicker. Sandy said she will analyze the fund balance and recommend a transfer amount that she feels comfortable with by e-mail to the other board members. That way they can vote on it at the next meeting, since she will not be able to attend it.

Ray stated that the Special meeting proposed last month has been tentatively moved to November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Jim made a motion to accept the amended Treasurer's Report for June and regular monthly report for July. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

#### V. - Tax Collector's Report:

Taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$195,316.24. Taxes collected in the month of July were \$6,773.89 and in August were \$278,250.64

Third party billing collections in the month of July were \$5,997.94 and in August were \$12,589.21.

Senator Fogarty's office has found a contact for us to inquire about reimbursement for our drinking water purchases. A letter was sent to Thomas Angellone at the RIDEM. No response has been received yet.

Framing for Chief's NEAFC certificate of appreciation and articles in 1<sup>st</sup> Responder magazine were finally done and ready for presentation to the Chief. Ray and Linda presented it to him and there was a round of applause.

Ray asked about the date for the upcoming Tax Sale, has it been pushed to January. Kim stated that it has been set as January 18<sup>th</sup>. Louise and Sandy both agreed that we should try to hold them earlier in the fiscal year, by say September the latest. Kim stated that as she had informed the board there was a change in vendor for conducting the tax sale and she had gotten her information to them later than she usually does. Then she had to wait for their office to finish up with tax sales they had already scheduled with the Town of Gloucester and the Chepachet Fire District. Some discussion followed about tax sale scheduling

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

## VI. - Chief's Report:

A couple of months ago the board asked to keep them apprised on the Dispatching Merger that had been publicized greatly in the media. The Chief has checked with the State and the issue is still under review and in the fact gathering stages.

Fireworks detail discussed at the last meeting went off without a hitch.

A thank-you card was received from Chief Frink of the Dunn's Corners FD in Westerly. This was for the Chief's assistance with a missing child search there.

George held a Tri-State League meeting here at the station on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

We had our own missing person search here in Glocester at the Heritage Park. The Chief was happy to say it finished successfully, as most searches do not.

Met with David Hall at the George Washington DEM Headquarters to finalize our VFA Grant for wild land personnel protective equipment and forestry firefighting equipment. The paperwork is all in order and has been submitted.

Over Labor Day weekend the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oakland-Mapleville FD Muster was held. We had a team compete and a great time was had by all!

On September 4<sup>th</sup> the Chief attended the swearing in ceremony for the new Smithfield Fire Chief Robert Seltzer.

The Chief attended an evening Forestry meeting of the RIDEM at Exeter Station 2. At that time the matching 50/50 grant was awarded for about \$2,678.

Work is still progressing on the Glocester radio systems. We have been working with Cyber Systems and the Glocester Police Department to come into compliance with the January 1, 2013 narrowbanding deadline.

On Sept 10<sup>th</sup> the new Glocester EMA Director, Jason Rhodes, held a meeting for all Glocester department heads, including the 3 Fire District Chiefs at GPD. Flu clinics are scheduled to be held in Glocester this fall at the Glocester Schools.

Another thing we have been working on is NIMS (National Incident Management Systems) compliance. It is good to say that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our department already meets the minimum mandated NIMS compliance, now we are working on 300 and 400 levels. Kim has already completed level 300 and is now signed up to take a level 400 class.

Several members of HFD attended CFD's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at Crystal Lake. We presented them with a plaque and all had a great time!

The exterior lights of the building have now been placed on a sensor and will run more efficiently.

RIEMA hosted a two day *Basic Search & Rescue* course at Camp Fogarty. It was completed by Lt. John Falco and Privates Johnathan Detri and Tom Malott.

Lt. Kevin Farley attended a special presentation by the RI Department of Health about the *Patient Tracking System* at the Northern RI Firemen's League meeting this past Monday.

The Chief met with the other Gloucester Fire Chiefs to discuss group training, coverage and general items going on in the Town of Gloucester.

On September 13<sup>th</sup> Ray and the Chief met with the other Fire Chiefs and their District Representatives. This meeting was just to open discussion regarding town wide coverage and more fact finding will be done and then brought back to the district boards.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and we have pink t-shirts for sale for \$15. Proceeds will be donated by the Association to Breast Cancer Research.

Additionally, there was a new paper article regarding the *Honor Flight Program* included in everyone's folder. This is a program sponsored by the RIAFC Foundation to fly veterans to Washington DC to visit the war memorials. They are targeting WWII and terminally ill veterans at this time. Please pass the word to any veterans you may know. There is a trip scheduled this Fall and another in the Spring. Actually Kim's Grandfather, George Barber a WWII veteran, will be chaperoned by the Chief on this first inaugural flight. Kim said that her Grandpa is walking on air he is so excited. He could not put into words how grateful he is to receive this honor and was so very impressed with the professionalism shown by all of the members of the RIAFC that he has spoken with. Especially Chief Farrell and Chief Pearson, he is just so grateful.

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

#### VII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

Linda reported that the last meeting of the Association was on September 10<sup>th</sup> and the next would be on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

She is trying to encourage new people to volunteer for committees. The Fundraising Committee is trying to come up with some new fundraisers. Perhaps a 9 Hole Ice Golf Tournament on Waterman Lake? It was also proposed to do an Open House, perhaps in the Spring. Additionally, they were talking about a crew trip to visit the Ground Zero site in New York in the Spring.

The new exercise equipment and treadmill have been purchased and installed in the weight room. Pvt. Johnathan Detri has done a lot of work painting upstairs.

The board congratulated Linda on winning the election for the Presidency of the Association.

#### VIII. - Committee Reports:

- a. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton, Chair  
No update available due to Milton's absence

- b. Broadband Work Team – Milton & Stephen Kut, Co-Chairs  
As Ray had reported at the last meeting, there has been a renewed interested on behalf of the RIEDC. He also reported that Congress has established a National Broadband First Responder Team and they are interested in talking to HFD to create a prototype. Some discussion followed about the advantages of broadband.
- c. Property Review Work Team – George & Louise, Co-Chairs  
On Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> George and Louise attempted to meet with in person with the property owners at 200 Putnam Pike. However no one appeared to be home. Some discussion followed about prospective property acquisition. Ray suggested that the work team look into getting prospective funding in place through local sources or foundations. That way they are ready to go if an opportunity arises.

**IX. - Old Business:**

- a. Update on RIDOT proposed Roadwork in Harmony.  
No new information. So discussion followed regarding local roadwork issues.
- b. Apparatus Review – Jim  
A Work Team is being formed with members so far being: Jim, George, Chief, Deputy Chief Segee and Lt. Falco. Ray suggested that the work team report their findings to the board at the February meeting.

Jim stated that there are 3 key points that the Apparatus Review intends to research.

- 1 – Review the apparatus we have in-house.
- 2 – Review our call types and see what apparatus is actually needed.
- 3 – Research what apparatus is available through Mutual Aid to avoid duplication.

Jim has estimated the Fair Market Value of Engine 23 at \$5,200 based on a comparable apparatus he had seen auctioned. George disagreed and thought this value should be higher. He will check with some guys he knows in Plymouth and give a second estimate at our next meeting. George also suggested instead of keeping this truck covered, behind the station, we ask West Gloucester Fire District if they have any space for us to store it there.

- c. District/Town-Wide Coverage  
Discussed in the Chiefs Report.

**X. - New Business:** Addressed throughout report.

**XI. - Public Input:** No audience.

**XII. – Executive Session:**

The Moderator asked for an Executive Session to be called to investigate allegations received of civil or criminal misconduct. A motion was made by Louise to go into executive session pursuant to *RIGL 42-46-5(a)(4)*. It was seconded by George. The board went into executive session at **7:55 pm**. The regular meeting reconvened at **8:28 pm**. Moderator Fogarty noted that no votes were taken while in executive session.

Louise made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. It was seconded by George. The motion carried unanimously.

At this time the Moderator asked that the receipt of letters of resignation from Captain Randy Brackett and Private Julie Brackett be acknowledged. The Moderator asked the Clerk to prepare letters of thanks for their years of service and mail them. The Chief stated that he too will also be sending a separate letter of acceptance for their resignations. As mentioned briefly earlier in the meeting, payroll checks had been prepared for the Brackett's to pay them for any call pay or stipends due as of the time of their resignation. They will also be mailed.

**XIII. – Adjournment:**

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Louise seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The September meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **8:30 pm**.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board is scheduled for **Thursday, 7:00 pm, October 18, 2012.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly S. Barber  
Tax Collector/Clerk