

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 19, 2013.**

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

Absent: Louise Michaels – excused

I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:02 pm by Moderator Fogarty.

II. - Approval of the minutes from the August 29th meeting.

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the August 29th meeting. If there are no corrections, he would like to call for a motion to accept them. Moderator Fogarty also noted that he would be abstaining from this vote due to his absence from the August meeting.

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 comments or questions on these expenses. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them as presented.

George made a motion to approve the bills. Milt seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

IV. - Treasurer's Report:

Sandy presented reports for both July and August of the new fiscal year.

Beginning balance July 1st \$415,046.30 and ending balance July 31st \$398,367.27.

Beginning balance August 1st \$398,367.27 and ending balance August 31st \$586,227.08. Tax revenue received totaled over \$223,000.

Sandy reported that both months had routine expenses.

Milt made a motion to accept the July and August Treasurer's reports as presented.

Milton seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

V. - Tax Collector's Report:

The taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$180,844.72. Taxes collected in the month of August totaled \$223,346.09.

Third party billing fees collected in the month of August were \$12,639.74. Ray commented that annualized that's about \$145,000, that's a lot. Kim stated that we are doing well, it fluctuates month to month though. Last year we collected well over \$100,000.

40 day notices for the tax sale were mailed on September 13th. There are 26 parcels left on the list as of today.

Kim attended the annual conference of the Northeast Regional Tax Collector's and Treasurer's Association September 9th through the 11th. Great conference! The speakers were awesome. The subjects covered were great. She brought back a lot of useful information from it and a lot of important contacts were made. Kim was also appointed to the executive committee of the NRTCTA as a representative from RI. She will now need to attend their board meetings that are held 3 times a year in Sturbridge, MA. Ray and the board congratulated Kim on her appointment. George asked Kim if any of the other tax collectors in town had attended. She stated that they had not, but she brought back information to share with them. George said he felt it was very important to take part in these types of things because the information you gain and the people you meet are incredible. Kim reported that the new Vice President of the NRTCTA is actually from a fire district in CT. She said the woman talked with her about getting more fire districts involved and helping the association grow and become stronger. The larger the group, the stronger the voice and the more clout it will hold. Part of the round table discussion at the conference was about the merging of services and how the different states were approaching the subject. Further discussion followed and the conference brochure was circulated.

Kim mentioned to the board that she did check the charter and by-laws to see if there was anything that would affect the mail delivery here at the station. She did not find anything. The only place that she did find the address listed was in the *Policies and Procedures* handbook and on the website. Kim stated she will get in touch with the postmaster to find out more specifics on delivery before the next meeting.

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

VI. - Chief's Report:

The Chief presented the Annual report of department officers and active crew to the board.

Chief Pearson wanted to note that 3 promotions would take effect with this notice:

Private Paul Perreault promoted to Lieutenant
Private William Vota promoted to Lieutenant
Lieutenant John Falco promoted to Captain.

Other officers remaining in their current rank are:

Lieutenant Kevin Farley
Captain David Plante
Deputy Chief Mike Segee

Along with this we have received 4 new applications for Probationary members. 3 of these individuals come to us as licensed EMT's already and 2 actually live in Harmony.

A grant was submitted for funds to pay for Lt. Falco to attend a *Leadership Challenges and Management Skills* training. It is a recruitment and retention program that will be held in Newport on October 12th and 13th. All expenses will be paid for through the grant.

Also, the Chief reported that the rescue had been sent out for repair to Flood Ford, a local dealer. The engine had to be replaced and it was completely covered by the warranty. Turn around time should be within a week to a week and a half, which is very good.

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

VII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

There was an Association meeting Monday September 9th.

The Steak Fry is scheduled for September 28th, tickets are \$15.

Ray asked overall if the crew seemed happy. Linda said, "Yes. We haven't missed any calls have we Chief?" He said, "No".

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

VIII. - Committee Reports:

- a. Broadband Work Team – Milton, Chair
Milt brought up the *Second Signal* software and its use on cell phones, as had been discussed at our last meeting. He thought that was a great step forward. The Chief reported that it has been working well. We had one issue with a broken wire, but other than that everyone has been giving very positive feedback. Linda commented that she loved it.
- b. Property Review Work Team – George & Louise, Co-Chairs
George reported that Kim had drafted letters of interest for the properties at 200 and 204 Putnam Pike and e-mailed them to George and Louise for their review, as directed at the last meeting. Louise was away on vacation and unavailable to comment. However, the letters were available for the rest of the board to review at tonight's meeting, while George signed them. All gave their approval of the content. Kim will mail them in the morning. Some discussion followed.

This item can be removed from future agendas, until a need to revisit the issue should arise.

- c. Apparatus Review Work Team – Jim Richards, Chair
Work Team: Jim, George, Chief, Deputy Chief Segee and Lt. John Falco

Note: This report was heard after the Treasurer's report, out of agenda order.

Jim reported that 3 bids were received for the new truck. The truck cost is going to be closer to \$220-225,000. The committee, as a group, is looking into certain items that may be sacrificed to get the figure down more closely to the appropriated funding of \$200,000. Perhaps the light tower that the committee had listed as an optional item could be added later, as a capital item in next year's budget. Some discussion followed.

Ray felt instead of cutting things out that might be vital, a Special Meeting should be called to appropriate the additional funds, with the proper notification given to the voters in the paper. Sandy agreed saying this was a large sum. Ray suggested we could have the Special Meeting at 6:30pm, before the regular October monthly meeting. The board agreed.

Sandy reported that we have \$201,475 in the truck fund and the \$6,000+ in the general fund from the sale of the old truck. A motion will also need to be made to move these funds from the general fund to the truck fund. She also stated that we do have the additional funds available to appropriate, without having to raise taxes.

The 3 vendors will be coming back with adjusted bids, conforming to the committee's recommendations. The committee also plans on visiting the third vendor's site to meet with them and give them the same opportunities of the other 2. Some discussion followed.

IX. - Old Business:

Even though it was not on the agenda anymore, Ray thought we should get an update on the roadwork in Harmony again. Now that the work is progressing in Chepachet and Greenville is done, we should send another letter of inquiry to the RI DOT Director.

The Chief said that the last time he spoke to the Deputy Director he told him that the 2 projects were moving forward with Chepachet to be finished in fiscal year 2013-14. Harmony is in the next stage and anticipated as a project for 2014-15. Ray requested that they attend another board meeting and present their plan to our tax payers. Jim stated that the RI DOT is present at the Gloucester Town Council meeting tonight. Ray is afraid that the RI DOT's plan will go from 2 years to 4 years and will then completely fall apart, as it did years ago and then again nothing will get done. Further discussion followed. The Chief said he will invite the Deputy Director to either attend the November or January meeting.

X. - New Business: Addressed throughout report.

XI. - Public Input: No audience.

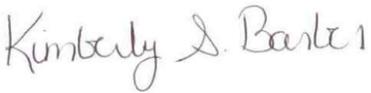
XII. – Executive Session: None called

XIII. – Adjournment:

Milton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The September meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **7:55 pm**.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Clerk