

# 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, May 16, 2013.**

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

Absent: Board Member – Milton Houston

**I. – Meeting Called to Order: 6:30pm** by Moderator Fogarty.

**II. - Approval of the minutes from the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

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

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

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

*A Budget Workshop for Fiscal Year 2012-13 was conducted at this time.*

Sandy and Kim supplied the board with a budget worksheets and discussion of the adjusted expenses line-by-line were as follows:

*Audit (60110)*

Discussion about going out to bid next year.

*Tax Sale Expense (60121)*

Kim explained that the \$300 fee was for an auctioneer used at the tax sale this year. We will not have that expense next year.

*IT (60150)*

It is proposed to increase this account by \$3,000 to pay for the Image Trend software for the Run Reports, rescue and NFIRS.

*Call Pay (60205)*

Sandy asked about this account being over this year, do we need to go up? Kim stated that it was over due to payouts for terminated crew members. George asked about the pay outs for details during storms, were these amounts posted here? Kim said those amounts were posted in Incentive Pay (60216).

*Building & Grounds Maintenance (60500)*

This line item is always so tight, we are bumping it up slightly.

*Heat (60510)*

Sandy suggested we increase this line item by \$1,000

*Capital Item Carryovers:*

Risk Insurance Review (61121) \$2,000

Structural Repairs (61122) \$11,508.55 estimate

*Proposed Capital Items:*

SCBA's \$5,790 (30 SCBA's total – 10 each Fiscal Year 2012/13, 2013/14 & 2014/15

Truck Fund \$30,000

Some discussion followed regarding projected revenue and cash on hand.

The Chief also wanted to make the board aware of another possible capital item for the future. The Vision system for dispatching, located at Gloucester PD, needs to have a back-up purchased at a cost of \$32,000 divided 3 ways. We were going to try to do it this year, but with the transition of Chiefs in West Gloucester and Chepachet already completing their budget, we were not all on the same page. This back-up is needed to bring us into compliance. The Chief wanted the board advised that he has been engaged in discussion about this for several years with the other districts, in case the system should fail. At that time the expense and inconvenience would be much more costly. Discussion followed about the system.

Sandy then presented her regular monthly report.

Beginning balance April 1<sup>st</sup> \$474,892.23 and ending balance April 30<sup>th</sup> \$465,443.27

Good money received from third party billing. There were routine bills and expenses.

Jim made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. George seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

The taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$63,553.78.

Taxes collected in the month of March totaled \$4,819.08.

Third party billing fees collected in the month of March were \$13,915.28.

Chief Goodnough's surprise retirement party is coming up June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Village Haven. Kim had tickets available for purchase, but everyone must RSVP by June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Geoff Malo will have the audit here by next week.

Unfunded liability calculation from last meeting. A copy was included in everyone's folder to show what the cost would be. Suggestion of shifting money in general funds to cover each year. Ray stated that this item would be discussed later during Executive Session under Personnel.

Kim asked Attorney Mason about the letter to Mr. Munroe. Fred asked her to send an e-mail reminder to follow-up on this item.

Inquiry to George regarding updates on motor vehicle fine legislation. When a ticket is given to an individual, \$10 from that goes to the state's general revenue fund.

Louise made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's Report. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### VI. - Chief's Report:

Grant Application to FEMA for IT Communications \$32,000 was denied. Grants for our region went to NH for a study on floods.

Chief wishes to remind everyone that Sandy's birthday is coming up on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month and to wish her a happy birthday.

Also congratulations to the re-elected Association Officials: President - Linda Ferragamo, Vice President - Paul Perreault, Secretary - Joshua Leary, Treasurer - Johnathan Detri.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> Deputy Chief Segee attended a Foam Drill in George Washington Management Area.

April 11<sup>th</sup> Chief attended story time with Lisa Sargent's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Fogarty School. They are having an upcoming Field Day that Chief also plans on attending.

Rescue 2 was inspected on April 24<sup>th</sup> by the RI Department of Health. Lieutenant Farley was in charge of overseeing the preparations.

Pvt. Mike Grenga participated in Career Day at Ponaganset High School.

Glocester Firefighter Scholarship applications were due April 30<sup>th</sup>; 5 have been received to date. They will be reviewed within the next few weeks and will be awarded accordingly.

The Harmony Officers held a meeting May 6<sup>th</sup> to go over the upcoming schedule for the summer months.

May 8<sup>th</sup> was the Department of Health training for the new EMS Software, Image Trend, with rotating sessions from 8am through 10pm. The RIDOH sent a thank-you for our hospitality. Some discussion followed about the abilities of the new software.

Updated SOG's have been distributed to the Crew. Thank you to Kim for her assistance in putting those together. The SOG's will be read and reviewed by the Board Members and will be voted on in September.

Pvt. Tom Mallott is currently training with Providence Fire Academy. Pvt. Alison Philbrick will also be training in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Academy in July.

Members of the Crew will be attending a Fundraiser next Monday at the A&W for Smithfield Firefighter, Lt. Coyne, who lost his home in a fire. The Association is making a donation to the family and the Seagraves will be going down along with the Crew to show support.

Amy Bettencourt (EMT-B) and Rob Waterman (finishing up EMT-B) are the newest additions to the department. They are the daughter and son of Lisa Waterman of Chepachet FD.

Upcoming events include the Tri-State Meet, the Gloucester Memorial Day Parade on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Chief Goodnough's Retirement Party and the NEAFC Conference in Springfield, MA. Additionally, Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> will be the Firemen's Memorial Parade. Three members are being added to the list of deceased members this year: Jerome Plante, Milton Aldrich, and Russell Steere.

Also Monday June 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a picnic at the station put on by the Association. Liberina's Restaurant will be catering a pig roast for the picnic.

Nathan Clark has offered to set off fireworks for the Fourth of July if a small collection of money is generated. It is still in the works.

Ray announced that Smithfield Fire is now officially adding a third rescue. Some discussion followed regarding the effect on mutual aid and revenue.

Jim made a motion to approve the Chief's Report. George seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Linda is enthusiastic about the picnic June 24<sup>th</sup> and encourages everyone to attend.

Also a sign-up for Harmony Polo shirts has been posted and will be ordered from Cool Air Creations in the coming weeks.

Jim made a motion to approve the HFD & Improvement Assoc. Report. Louise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VIII. - Committee Reports:**

a. **Policies & Procedures Manual** – Milton, Chair

Jim made a motion to Accept the Policies and Procedures Manual. Louise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

\*This item can now be removed from the Agenda.

b. **Broadband Work Team** – Milton & Stephen Kut, Co-Chairs

No new information

c. **Property Review Work Team** – George & Louise, Co-Chairs

No new information

George brought up the topic of gaining use of more land around the station with the use of concrete blocks which are priced at \$104/piece. He will send Barnes Concrete down to quote project.

d. **Apparatus Review Work Team** – Jim Richards, Chair  
**Work Team: Jim, George, Chief, Deputy Chief Segee, Lt. John Falco & Pvt. George Nichols**

Things are moving along steadily. Confidence is high that the new truck will be able to be purchased for \$200,000 with no concerns. Once approval is obtained at the Annual Meeting, the process should move fairly quickly.

Two offers have been received for the 1970 International Truck. One is from a collector out of Albany, NY for \$4,000 who plans to add it to his collection. The second is from a gentleman out of Millbury, MA for \$6,789.99. The recommendation is to accept the second offer. A suggestion was made to bring the truck to the Tri State Meet to possibly get a higher price.

Louise made a motion to accept the second offer of \$6,789.99 to purchase the 1970 International Truck unless a better offer is generated. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**IX. - Old Business:**

a. **Update on RIDOT proposed Roadwork in Harmony**

RIDOT responded to our letter. Their letter was dated May 15<sup>th</sup> and emailed to the Chief. The Highway Department met with the Police Department and Town Council in January, discussing the concept of 3 lanes coming through Gloucester into Chepachet. The Town would not accept that. They are back to the drawing board on what to do with the road. The Chief has expressed concerns to the District Board about the condition of the sidewalks etc. The Maintenance Department will be contacted to try and clean up the sidewalks as best they can. The engineer said he understands the situation but said if they attempt to do anything to the road right now, they will lose federal dollars to help make proper repairs. They are discussing lining up the road. The Chief asked to be kept informed of any and all updates/meetings on the situation. The Governor will be in Chepachet tomorrow at 10am to see the progress on the road. Trucks are supposed to come up to fix any potholes.

b. **District/Town-wide Coverage**

No new information.

**X. - New Business:**

a. **Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget Workshop**

Addressed in Treasurer's Report.

b. **Canvass/Correct Voter Lists for Annual Election**

List signed-off by Moderator Fogarty.

c. **Appoint Voting Overseers**

George made motion to appoint Aly Mack and Doreen Pierce as voting overseers. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sandy brought up a safety issue on Lowe's Lane. Her neighbor's wife had suffered some injuries and stated there was a significant delay of about 45 minutes in getting the rescue to this location, because there was an issue with the dispatcher not knowing where to send the rescue. It was requested to research this matter to prevent future delays. It is suggested that the neighbors to whom this issue affects, draft and submit a letter to the Gloucester Public Safety Committee. They can make a recommendation to eliminate confusion or abandon a portion of the road.

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

**XII.** - Executive Session:

The Board then announced it would be going into Executive Session regarding matters of personnel. The individuals to be discussed had been notified in writing pursuant to *RIGL 42-46-5*.

The Board recessed for Executive Session at 8:01 pm and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:17 pm.

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

The Moderator asked for a motion to ratify the recommendation of the Board concerning the pay raise item discussed during Executive Session. This item was the Administrative pay raise of 3%. Louise made the motion. Jim seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

**XIII.** - Adjournment:

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

The May meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board is the Annual District Board Meeting scheduled for **Saturday, 10:00 am, June 1, 2013** at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly S. Barber  
Tax Collector/Clerk