

HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT
194 Putnam Pike
Glocester, RI 02814

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

Present:

Board Members: Raymond Fogarty, George Kain, Louise Michaels, James Richards; Moderator: Milton Huston, Jr.; Treasurer: Sandra Owens; Attorney: Fred Mason, Jr.; Association Rep: Willy Vota; Chief: Stuart Pearson

Absent: Kimberly Barber, Tax Collector (excused)

Audience: Deputy Chief Jeffrey Muto, Dave Mahoney, Keith Brown

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05pm.

Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2015 and August 20, 2015 meetings: motion to table George, 2nd Louise. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of Bills: motion to table Ray, 2nd Louise. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: motion to table Ray, 2nd Louise. The motion carried unanimously.

Tax Collector's Report: motion to table James, 2nd George. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief's Report: Chief Pearson reported on recent equipment repairs, tires replaced on vehicles. The new overhead doors installation is nearly complete. He will attend a meeting at the town related to zoning and planning. Safety inspections of businesses and restaurants are complete. Motion to accept James, 2nd George, approved.

Harmony Fire Dept. & Improvement Association Report: Willy Vota reported collecting \$4,000 for the MDA in two days. The steak fry event is being held on October 3, 2015. Tickets are now on sale. The Assn. asked for the use of the kitchen for food preparation in the two days prior to the event. Motion to approve this Ray, 2nd Louise. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Property Review Work Team – on hold, nothing to report.

Meeting of Three Fire Districts: Chief Pearson stated that communications is the main topic. They are working on another town site; permission to use existing towers. Target date to finish is end of November. The need to keep aware of when new towers go up in town. HFD need to obtain licenses. Also being discussed with the other districts is the sharing of Policies and Procedures. Motion to accept Louise, 2nd Ray. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Vote to add write-in names on ballot at Annual Meetings: Attorney Mason to do further research. During the Annual Meeting on June 6, he was looking at both the HFD By-Laws (which mention that a tax payer can make a motion) and Open Meetings Laws regarding what can be voted on (only items on the posted agenda). He will report on this at the October meeting.

Alternative Electric Source Proposal: Ed from Ambit Energy made a proposal regarding how much can be saved by switching from National Grid to Ambit. Ambit is part of JD Power. We can go back to National Grid without any penalty or fees if we are not satisfied. Ray will follow up with Lt. Gov. McKee to see if we need to follow state purchasing guidelines (put out to bid) to change energy suppliers. Motion to put out to bid if needed James, 2nd George. The motion carried unanimously. If no bid is needed, we should change suppliers quickly to save money.

Update on Addition of Weekend Per/Diem Shifts: motion to table James, 2nd Louise. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Annual Presentation of Officers & Crew Roster Listings: motion to table Louise, 2nd James, approved.

Call Pay Proposal: George Kain stated that this report is in progress. Motion to accept Ray, 2nd James. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Input

Sandra Owens mentioned the need for more Fire Index signs around town, based on the experience of having a major brush fire on her property early in May. People from cities moving into Gloucester may not be aware of the meaning of fire hazards, dry conditions, etc.

Dave Maloney had several follow-up questions regarding the Chief's report presented at the June 6 Annual meeting. Chief Pearson and HFD board members replied regarding response rates and staffing. Chief Pearson stated that we have applied for a grant for retention of members, with no response as yet. He will re-submit this grant if needed. Deputy Chief mentioned that membership is variable and is volunteer-based. Moderator Huston stated that the Chief and Deputy Chief are in charge of planning equipment and manpower in reply to questions about protective gear and vehicles. The HFD crew is now qualified in Rapid Intervention Team after training.

Executive Session

Motion made by Louise to move into Executive Session regarding a matter of personnel, pursuant to *RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)*, 2nd by Ray. The motion carried unanimously. The HFD Board recessed for the Executive Session at 8:25pm.

A motion was made by James to reconvene the regular meeting at 8:45pm, 2nd by Louise. The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Huston stated that a vote was taken while in Executive Session. A motion was made by Ray to assign Kim the duties of Harmony's Per/Diem scheduler, which will be a duty outside of her regular Tax Collector and Clerk positions. She will be compensated with a \$1,400 stipend, paid weekly through payroll. Additionally she will be provided with a district paid cell phone to enable contact 24/7. Duties will begin with the preparation of October's Per/Diem schedule. The motion was seconded by Jim. The motion carried 3 to 1. (Ayes: Fogarty, Richards, Kain - Nay: Michaels)

A motion was made by George to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, 2nd Louise. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Ray moved to adjourn at 8:47pm, 2nd George. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Owens
Clerk, Pro-Tem