

## OAKLAND~MAPLEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes February 26, 2014

#### Opening:

The regular meeting of the Oakland~Mapleville Fire District Operating Committee was called to order at 7:08 pm on February 26, 2014 in the district fire station at 46 Oakland School St. Oakland by Bob L'Esperance, Moderator.

#### Present:

Peter Leone, Richard Nolan, Albert Lavigne, Alice Lavigne and Mike Cosetta; and Commissioners Ed Bertholic, Warren Steere and Tom Demers; Chief Joe Bertholic and Clerk Anne Chretien.

**Absent:** Patricia St.Pierre

#### A. Approval of Minutes

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting were waived and accepted.

**Motion** to accept the minutes was made by Alice Lavigne and seconded by Richard Nolan. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

#### B. Commissioners Report

- American Gutter was to install a product to heat the gutters to melt ice off the fire station roof, but that installation has now been cancelled. The situation will be addressed in the spring and a resolution will be decided on by the Commissioners.
- Motion to accept the Commissioners Report was made by Pete Leone. Seconded by Alice Lavigne. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

#### C. Chief's Report

- There were 53 runs. (See attached report).
  - January 2014 runs averaged 4 personnel per call. Some runs were short a driver.
  - Engine 11 has an oil leak and problem with the exhaust, Scotts Mobile will be handling the repairs.
  - Key Farb and Camera System- a cost of about \$1300.00 was presented to the Chief to cover cost of license and software to enable the system to be remotely accesses to allow out-of-town fire departments to be allowed

access to the Fire Station in the event of needed emergency coverage. Chief will still look at the situation and alternatives.

- Rescue 1 had repair completed to the emergency brake.
- VFIS sent a check for damages to Engine 13 in December but was never received, so a replacement check was sent and received February 25<sup>th</sup>. The repair was completed at a cost of \$675.00 the check was \$1435. Also, the Town of Burrillville received a check from VFIS for the repair of the Police Chief's vehicle that was damaged in the accident.
- **Motion** to accept the Chief's Report by Alice Lavigne and seconded by Peter Leone.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

#### **D. Tax Assessors Report**

- No report to give.

#### **E. Tax Collectors Report**

- Collections from 9/1/2013 to 08/28/2014 which includes current and prior year taxes, and interest and fees totaled \$283,939.69 as of February 25, 2014. Outstanding balance to be collected is \$65,542.69. See attached report.
- Discussion was held regarding 5 mobile home properties in the Maplehill Mobile Home Park. The Town of Burrillville will not hold the Maplehill Mobile Home Park responsible for non-payment of town taxes with these abandoned mobile homes. These mobile homes will either be removed from the property and/or destroyed.  
Motion by Alice Lavigne was made to suspend the account balances of taxes owed from the trial balance to be collected. Motion was seconded by my Mike Cosetta.  
Voting "I" was Alice Lavigne, Albert Lavigne, Richard Nolan and Mike Cosetta; the exception to the vote was Peter Leone who voted "Nay".
- Richard Nolan, Tax Collector, brought up the issue of reviewing the exemption amounts used by OMFD and to come into alignment with the Town of Burrillville exemptions in how they are applied. In some cases with mobile home the exemptions are greater than the value of the mobile home. This will be reviewed in the future.
- Invitation to join the Town of Burrillville's Tax Sale June 12, 2014 was received and presented to the committee.
- Motion by Peter Leone to stay as we are with RI Tax Title and not join the town. Seconded by Alice Lavigne. Voted "I" by all present.
- Approximately 270 delinquent bills were sent out at the end of January.
- Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report was made by Albert Lavigne and seconded by Peter Leone.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

## **F. Treasurers Report**

- All bills are paid and up-to-date.
- Treasurer, Patricia St. Pierre is on vacation and the report was presented by Clerk, Anne Chretien.
- The audit report from Jim Dugan was received and will be reviewed at next month's meeting.
- Discussion was held regarding TDI payments, which began the last quarter of 2013, for Anne Chretien. The State of RI, Division of Taxation, Linda Dolce notified her that due to the classification that OMFD had chosen in 2006 –Anne is not eligible to contribute to TDI. The state will return the check for \$161.40 that they received from our payroll processor once Anne is reimbursed \$64.47 that she paid in. The reimbursement took place and the check from the state mailed on Feb 21, 2014.
- Motion was made by Peter Leone that the clerk, Anne Chretien, research what is necessary to change things so Anne can contribute to TDI. Seconded by Richard Nolan. Voted "I" by all present.
- Motion to accept the Treasurers report was made by Peter Leone and seconded by Albert Lavigne.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

## **G. Old Business**

- By-Laws committee did not meet in February.
- Pete Leone provided a copy of minutes from the OMFD meeting of September 22, 2004, to prove that the committee accepted and instituted LOSAP points plan for firemen. It was to be monitored by the Chief and reported each year as to who qualifies for the program. This LOSAP program is in place now and from this point forward the plan needs to be monitored.
- Recruitment/Retention program is being worked on by a committee of Mike McGrane, Brian Champagne, Stacy Seal, Troy Phillips, Leo Dunn and Mike Cosetta representing the OMFD Operating Committee.
- In February the committee researching the acquisition of a new Rescue did not meet. This committee will look into sharing information with the Pascoag Fire District who is also looking into purchasing a new Rescue. If efforts are combined between the districts, it may benefit both companies on the price of the vehicles. The Fire Chief from Pascoag is receptive to this plan.

## **H. New Business**

- Discussion was held regarding the situation with receiving payment for two years delinquent taxes owed by taxpayers at P/L 231/048. Wells Fargo & Co. contacted the office of the tax collector to verify if taxes were current and when told the taxes were in arrears asked for the amount owed and subsequently sent payment.

After the fact, the property owners of P/L 231/048 sent a money order to pay the taxes and asked the payment from Wells Fargo & Co. be returned saying they had no standing with the property's mortgage. Wells Fargo & Co. was contacted and did not want the payment reversed and sent back to them. They claimed they were in 1<sup>st</sup> position on the mortgage. A letter was sent notifying the property owners that we would return their Money Order or apply the money to future tax payments. In response the property owners sent a letter to the OMFD Operating Committee and individually to some of the committee members.

In response to the letter, Bob L'Esperance, Moderator, requested that the clerk, Anne Chretien, contact the office of Atty. Glenn Andreoni of RI Tax Title, LLC for a determination of the interest of Wells Fargo & Co. in this property at P/L 231/048. It was determined by their Title Examiner that yes in fact Wells Fargo & Co. has an interest in the property of P/L 231/048, by virtue of the following:

November 24, 1999 – Property owners of P/L 231/048 entered into a Mortgage Deed with First Union National Bank

September 1, 2001 - First Union National Bank merged with Wachovia Bank

2008 – Wells Fargo & Co. acquired Wachovia Bank Corporation, including First Union National Bank

- Motion was made by Peter Leone to send a letter by Certified Mail to the property owners of P/L 231/048 explaining the action taken by the Tax Collector's Office and the results of the Title Examiners research and to return their Money Order. The motion was seconded by Mike Cosetta. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

**Motion** to adjourn meeting at 8:22 pm was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Peter Leone.

Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

Minutes submitted by: Anne Chretien, Clerk