

OAKLAND~MAPLEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes NOVEMBER 19, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Oakland~Mapleville Fire District Operating Committee was called to order at 7:06 pm on November 19,2014 in the district fire station at 46 Oakland School St. Oakland by Bob L'Esperance, Moderator.

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

Absent: Alice Lavigne

Guest: Leigha Joyal

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 Peter Leone and seconded by Pat St.Pierre. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

B. Commissioners Report

- The parking lot and driveways have been sealed and the lines painted. Two handicap parking places have been moved from the left side of the building to the office side of the building. We now have a total of four handicap places.
- Lawn mower has been serviced under the warranty at no charge. Pulley deck, mandrel and bearings replaced.
- A & M Compressed Air Products has finally repaired the compressor and it was very costly.
- Lights are being replaced with LED lights and by next week the replacement lights should be in on the poles.
- We may be able to acquire a scissor lift which the Chief is researching.
- Motion to accept the Commissioners Report was made by Pat St. Pierre and seconded by Mike Cosetta. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

C. Chief's Report

- Runs for the month were 53. (See attached report.)

- We are now averaging 5 persons per run. Call pay may be the reason for the increase, we will see.
- Medic 1 blew an O ring while driving it on Victory Hwy and lost all the oil. It was towed to Scott's Mobile and in the process of towing damage was sustained on one of the fenders. I am waiting to hear back from the towing company. Scott's Mobile completed repairs to Medic 1.
- The finalized specs for the new rescue should be completed in the next two weeks. It will go out to bid by December 10th and we will plan to open the bids on December 30, 2014.
- The forestry brush truck, which was acquired at no cost to the department to replace our existing one, will need new tires and painting. One bid received was \$13,900.00 for painting and another for tires was around \$6,000.00. Still waiting on bids from ACI paint shop.
Once in service we will return the other brush truck to the state.
- Motion to accept the Chief's report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Pete Leone.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

D. Tax Assessors Report

- Approved 1 abatement due to a tangible being billed by OMFD and belongs to Pascoag Fire District.
- National Grid supplied a price per street light analysis of the 122 street lights in the district. The clerk added the cost of a supplier we pay – Direct Energy and the average street light costs the district \$116.00 per month. If a tax payer wants a light on their property the cost to them would be \$200.00 annually. M. Cosetta will contact the tax payer that was interested in having a light on his property.
- Motion to accept the Tax Assessors report was made by Peter Leone and seconded by Patricia St.Pierre
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

E. Tax Collectors Report

- Collections from 9/1/2014 to 08/31/2015 which includes current and prior year taxes, and interest and fees totaled \$216,448.87 as of November 18, 2014. Outstanding balance to be collected is \$181,264.93. See attached report.
- Discussion regarding a request to abate interest on a long standing overdue account was held at the request of a concerned party. The tax payer died in June of this year and her minor son is living in the residence. Once the property is settled through probate court the son's father is to make payments on the account.

- Motion to abate the interest in the amount of \$170.83 on the account #02-0265-65 by the Tax Assessors was made by Pete Leone and seconded by Mike Cosetta.
- Unanimously voted “I” by all present
- The post office box #675 in Mapleville Post Office is now closed.
- Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report was made by Peter Leone and seconded by Mike Cosetta.
- Unanimously voted “I” by all present.

F. Treasurers Report

- All bills are paid and up-to-date.
- The auditor, Carlucci & Dugan in Lincoln, has submitted a draft of the audit report for the previous fiscal year. Some of the adjustments to accounts need to be completed and balanced. When all is in balance the OK to Jim at Carlucci & Dugan to finalize the statement will be given.
- Question arose from P. Leone about the LOSAP payment as to why it was over the budgeted amount of \$16,000. The response from P. St.Pierre was that the amount of the bill was \$15,519.20 but that an administration fee of \$960.00 was added to the invoice for a total of \$16,479.20. This will be taken into consideration for the next fiscal year.
- Transfer of funds from Rhode Island Credit Union checking account to the savings account at Navigant Credit Union will take place as the balance is high due to the amount of tax payments collected and the checking account does not earn interest.
- Motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Richard Nolan.
- Unanimously voted “I” by all present.

G. Old Business

- By-Laws committee did not meet in November.
- Bob L’Esperance received a copy of the results of a meeting held by the Town of Burrillville that involved discussion on what could be done to improve things in the town of Burrillville. Copies of the report will be made.
- A meeting of all fire district boards will take place at the invitation of the Harrisville Fire District on December 8, 2014 at 6pm. This is to discuss the EMS and fire services in the town. Questions regarding mutual aid with Nasonville Fire District came up and Bob L’Esperance is going to contact Janet Raymond to discuss the situation.
- Louise Phaneuf, Town Clerk requested the Agenda and minutes of the Annual Meeting held in September through Richard Nolan, Public Records Officer.

These documents were sent to her via email by the clerk. Louise is trying to determine the reason for the district's decision to inform the town of Burrillville that the fire station can no longer be used as a polling place in the future. B. L'Esperance said this item was not an agenda item and it was a tax payer, M. Brizard that brought the item up from the floor. And according to the charter and by-laws the Commissioners have the right to approve usage of the station. It is in the interest of public safety that the decision was made. A letter will be sent to the Town Clerk with further explanation of the decision.

H. New Business

Chief Betholic brought up a question regarding a fire fighter, Grant Fournier III, who was a vested member of the department for 11 years when he resigned in 2004. He has now re-joined the department and is questioning is vested years. Before the discussion continued Leigha Joyal went on record as to her non-participation in the discussion. Pete Leone commented that Grant was vested in another insurance policy with Northwestern Ins. and that those policies were terminated when the change to the current LOSAP program began and at that time he was out of the department and not included in the new program. When he left the OM Fire Department we stopped paying the premium and any cash value would have been used to pay the premium until it ran out. It was agreed that Pete Leone would look into the cash value at the time of the resignation. This information will be shared with the board at the December meeting.

Bob L'Esperance brought up the fact that Alice Lavigne cannot complete the remainder of her term as Tax Assessor due to her health.

Motion was made by Pete Leone that Leigha Joyal be appointed to complete Alice Lavigne's term which is until September 2015 and that Alice be made an honorary board member for life. Motion was seconded by Mike Cosetta.

Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

Leigha Joyal was appointed to the By-Laws Committee, which also includes Richard Nolan, Bob L'Esperance, and Mike McGrane of the O/M Fire Department.

- **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm was made by Peter Leone and seconded by Al Lavigne.

Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

Minutes submitted by: Anne Chretien, Clerk