

# OAKLAND~MAPLEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes DECEMBER 17, 2014

### Opening:

The regular meeting of the Oakland~Mapleville Fire District Operating Committee was called to order at 7:10 pm on December 17, 2014 in the district fire station at 46 Oakland School St. Oakland by Bob L'Esperance, Moderator.

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

**Absent:** Albert Lavigne, Ed Bertholic

### A. Approval of Minutes

Patricia St.Pierre commented that she felt that it was important that the clerk, Anne Chretien, should email the minutes of the meeting to each member of the board for review.

**Motion** was made by Pete Leone that the minutes of the monthly board meeting are emailed to members for review beginning with December 2014's minutes before the next meeting and before posting to the Secretary of State's website. Motion was seconded by Mike Cosetta.

Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

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

**Motion** to accept the minutes was made by Leigha Joyal and seconded by Pat St.Pierre. Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

### B. Commissioners Report

- Lights on poles in the parking lot have been replaced with LED lights. Thanks to Pete Leone and company for completing this task.
- Snow plowing went out to bid and we have received 2 bids so far. The deadline is December 29<sup>th</sup>. The bid request was for 3 years, from January 2015 through December 2017.
- 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 55. (See attached report.)
- We are still averaging 5 persons per run. Call pay may be the reason for the increase, we will see. Graphics show the busiest days and hours of the week. (see attached)
- On-line training has begun at the request of some department members. The training includes Firemen I & II, Fire Officer, EMT refresher. This is a one year subscription. The guys can use this at the station or can sign on at home on their computers. This training will also count as a good standing requirement within the department. This training does not count on the night we drill. This on-line training should work for most of the members. This system also automatically tracks each member's progress by subject matter. The cost was \$99.00 per person.
- Leigha Joyal asked the Chief how often do we cover Nasonville Fire Department when they don't respond to a call. He responded that he could not answer that without doing research and tracking that specific situation. He will look into it.
- Motion to accept the Chief's report was made by Leigha Joyal and seconded by Pat St. Pierre.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

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

- N/A

### **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 \$277,520.73 as of December 11, 2014. Outstanding balance to be collected is \$120,131.39. See attached report.
- 70% of taxes owed have been collected as of December 11, 2014.
- The account #02-0265-65 which had the interest abated by vote of the Operating Committee at the last meeting was paid in full. The lien on the property will be released.
- The clerk, Anne Chretien, and the Tax Collector, Richard Nolan, who is also Records Officer, will be attending the Open Government Summit on January 15, 2015 at CCRI in Warwick. Then we will be certified for the year regarding open meeting laws.

- A project to scan into the computer all old meeting minutes will begin early in 2015. This will guarantee that we have the hand written minutes, which began in 1934, saved for posterity.
- Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Peter Leone.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

#### **F. Treasurers Report**

- All bills are paid and up-to-date.
- The auditor, Carlucci & Dugan in Lincoln, has contacted the Treasurer to say that the audit report booklets are complete and ready to be picked up for the previous fiscal year.
- Peter Leone suggested that the problem with the new Quick Books software could be the historical data that was loaded into the new computer at the time of purchase. The data could have caused the problem encountered when adjustments were being attempted by the Treasurer to adjust figures according to the auditor's findings.
- Transfer of funds from Rhode Island Credit Union checking account to the savings account at Navigant Credit Union has not taken place as of this date.
- Motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by Peter Leone and seconded by Leigha Joyal.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

#### **G. Old Business**

- By-Laws committee will meet on January 14, 2015 at 6:30pm.
- Forestry truck- ACI paint shop representative has not come up to the station to assess the truck for painting and they have not submitted a bid. Chief Bertholic stated that he may take the truck to them so a bid can be completed. He stated that some equipment has been removed from the old truck to put on the new truck. Once the truck is in service he will have to find out where he can bring the old truck to return to the government. When everything is completed on the new truck it will be inspected by a government representative and officially turned over to the department.
- Louise Phaneuf, Town Clerk and Bob L'Esperance have spoken regarding the letter sent telling her of the decision by the district tax payers at the annual meeting not to allow the station to be used as a polling place in the future. It was also the commissioners of the district decision that due to the interest of public safety the decision should stand. She explained to Mr. L'Esperance that she had to answer to the State of Rhode Island why the polling place had to be moved for future elections. The topic of a rental payment of \$50.00 by the Town of Burrillville when the meeting room was used as a polling place was brought up by Commissioner Tom Demers. To the clerk's knowledge no payment has been

- received for the primary held in September or the general election held in November. The Town Clerk will move forward to find a new location.
- Rescue Truck Bids – The specs were given out. Richard Peck’s company missed the deadline. He stated he could not bid on the truck as is and needed more information. The bids will be opened on December 30, 2014, at 7:15pm. Awarding of the contract will not take place that night.
  - Northwestern Mutual Life Ins. for firefighter Grant Fournier III – Peter Leone stated that the policy’s cash value at the time of Grant’s leaving the fire department was \$630.00 in 2004. That cash value would have been used to pay the premium on the policy until the money ran out. In order for him to receive the cash value he would have had to surrender the policy at the time of his leaving the department. Peter will bring the paperwork with him to the next meeting in January.

## **H. New Business**

- Since our last meeting Alice Lavigne passed away on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Overlook Nursing Home in Pascoag, RI. Members of the committee and the fire department attended the services.
- Motion was made by Peter Leone to send her annual stipend of \$325.00 to the Lions Club in her memory. The motion was seconded by Mike Cosetta.
- Unanimously voted “I” by all present.
- Discussion was held to address a request by a tax payer to amend the minutes of the annual meeting. His request was to amend the vote on political signs on the OMF D property in future elections. According to the minutes of the meeting and the recollection of the members of the committee, no such motion was made and therefore there is nothing to amend. The minutes stand as recorded.
- A new contract was signed by the Town of Burrillville on our behalf with Constellation New Energy Inc. to supply electricity at a locked in rate through November of 2017. This replaces Direct Energy the former supplier.
- Appointment was made to the EMS/Fire Services Workshop. The members are Leigha Joyal and Bob L’Esperance.
- Chief Bertholic brought up the fact that a new storage building could be built on the back of the property behind the station. New trusses for the building have been donated for this purpose. Consideration is being given to build a second floor above the storage units to accommodate training. This will allow the office side of the station to be cleaned up and present a better appearance from the road. The building design was completed by one of the members of the fire department. If approved, this building will be built by volunteers. Storage of the field day equipment will be moved here from the garage on Victory Hwy. and the garage would be demolished and save on insurance costs. Comment by Peter Leone regarding water runoff needs to be considered because of the drainage system installed when the fire station was built. The Chief will check with Joe Raymond, town building inspector, regarding building code. The site plan for the property is in the district office.

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.

Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

Minutes submitted by: Anne Chretien, Clerk