

OAKLAND~MAPLEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Oakland~Mapleville Fire District Operating Committee was called to order at 7:10 pm on February 25, 2015 in the district fire station at 46 Oakland School St. Oakland by Bob L'Esperance, Moderator.

Present: Mike Cosetta, Richard Nolan, Albert Lavigne, Leigha Joyal; Commissioner Ed Bertholic, Tom Demers, Warren Steere; Chief Joe Bertholic and Clerk Anne Chretien

Absent: Peter Leone and Patricia St.Pierre

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 2015 meeting were sent to all members for review prior to posting on the RI Secretary of State's web-site.

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

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.

Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

B. Commissioners Report

- Due to the amount of snow that fell so far in the month of February, the roof of the fire station was shoveled off by volunteers about four (4) times. We had to concentrate all efforts this month on plowing and keeping the ice cleared from the station roof as best we could.
- Motion to accept the Commissioners Report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Albert Lavigne.
- Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

C. Chief's Report

- Runs for the month were 53. (See attached report.) We were very busy with rescue calls this month.
- We are averaging 4 persons per run.
- Shoveled and chiseled ice almost every day due to the amount of snow storms we have had this month. Spent extra money on ice melt. During the night of the blizzard, a second person was scheduled for the overnight shift in case there was an emergency call. I felt we needed the coverage. So we will be 16 hours over

with regards to payroll. At the end of this shift there were three (3) rescue runs back-to-back.

- Engine 11 – the rear compartment broke off the back. The repair involved welding the broken piece/floor and reinforce the parts. Triple M Plastics of Kennebunkport, Me will supply the necessary parts. The repair was under warranty, but I will check and make sure.
- Storm coverage- is reimbursable through FEMA due to a “State of Emergency” being declared for RI. Paperwork was completed and sent to FEMA through the town of Burrillville to get the district reimbursed.
- Comments from Mike Cosetta regarding a fire at a pool company located on Bronco Hwy. The OMFD firemen responded to a fire at this company and were the first on the scene. They laid the first line and got the fire out within ten (10) minutes. There were acetylene tanks on the property that could have blown up if it were not by the quick work of the firemen on scene. Compliments to OMFD- really good job.
- OMFD Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) - has been updated by Grant Fournier. He has spent a lot of time and effort with this project. These guidelines back up standard procedures.
- Motion to accept the Chief’s report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.
- 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 \$319,556.36 as of February 19, 2015. Outstanding balance to be collected is \$78,703.66. See attached report.
- Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Albert Lavigne.
- Unanimously voted “I” by all present.

F. Treasurers Report

- All bills are paid and up-to-date.
- The supplier for the electricity, Constellation Energy, will be paid through National Grid, who will be billed by Constellation. So there will not be separate billing.
- Motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.
- Unanimously voted “I” by all present.

G. Old Business

- By-Laws committee did not meet on February 11, 2015 the next meeting will be held on March 10, 2015 at 6:30pm.
- Forestry Truck Update- The truck is in the paint shop at the ACI. The wheels for the truck are in, but the tires are still on back order.
- Rescue Truck Update– Met with the vendor on February 14, 2015 and reviewed drawing changes, colors were picked out from color swatches. When the drawing is completed the vendor will come here to discuss. Also, the chassis is in. Once they start building the vehicle it will take 27 days, then it will be transported to Attleboro. We should receive it sometime in June. Once the new rescue is in service then we will complete the trade-in of the old rescue.
- Storage/Training Building Update- Ordered floor trusses but we are not in a hurry for delivery because of the amount of snow on the ground. Trusses are being built in Seekonk, MA. When ready to begin building there are volunteers lined up to help.
- NML Ins issue no update could be given because of the absence of Peter Leone.

H. New Business

- Roof Ice Dams- Tom Demers received a quote to install wiring to melt ice on roof of \$12,800. and a second from Gutter Helmet for \$10,000. More bids still to come in. The ice is also affecting the walls on the side of building. Joe Bertholic stated that even if we have a mild winter there are still ice problems. In the future, plans should be made to put a small roof over the door way to the station that is used by the public.
- 571 Victory Hwy-Mark & Cynthia Brizard sent a proposal to the OMFD requesting that they be allowed to the purchase lease on the water hole at this address. Bob L’Esperance read the letter to the committee. (see attached). This water hole was leased to the district many years ago by the Pate family and could be used to pump water from it in the event of a fire. The water hole now is overgrown and full of silt. The district would have to seek permission from DEM to dredge out the hole and this may be difficult to acquire and very costly. The

district now has alternate water sources. When asked what plans Mr. Brizard would have for the property, he stated he would just clean it up and make the frontage part of his lot. He would not try to dig out the hole. It is really unusable. He also stated that if water is available in the hole and the firemen needed it, then they could use it. Ed Bertholic stated that there is a spring in the middle of the hole, but that it would be costly to dig it out. Joe Bertholic stated that it was not a productive hole and would cost more than what it is worth to dig it out. Mr. Brizard stated that it is the same offer that he made in 2003 and thinks it is fair. Bob L'Esperance asked each Commissioner what their opinion was and each said they thought the property should be sold.

Motion was made by Mike Cosetta to sell the property lease to Mark and Cynthia Brizard for the amount of \$4000 with all legal and municipal expenses paid by them. This motion was seconded by Leigha Joyal.

Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

A resolution will be drawn up by Leigha Joyal on behalf of the Commissioners to present to Atty. Brad Steere who represents the Brizards and Leigha will act on behalf of the Commissioners to execute the transfer of the lease.

RI House Bills 5343, 5344 & 5345 – These bills were discussed. They are important to the fire districts because in effect it will change the way we post all meetings in the district and states the number of voters needed for a quorum that must be attained to have the annual meeting and budget issues could be affected if the bills are passed. (see attached bills) Leigha Joyal will put together a letter to send to all local Representatives. Operating Committee wants to meet with the local Representatives regarding the bills.

I. Public Comment

- None

J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.

Unanimously voted "I" by all present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Anne Chretien, Clerk