

# OAKLAND~MAPLEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes January 25, 2017

### Opening and Attendance:

The regular monthly meeting of the Oakland~Mapleville Fire District Operating Committee was called to order at 7:10 pm on January 25, 2017 in the district fire station at 46 Oakland School St. Oakland, RI by Robert L'Esperance, Moderator.

### Voting Committee Members Present:

**Moderator** Robert L'Esperance, **Tax Assessors** Mike Cosetta, & Leigha Joyal, **Clerk** Richard Lapierre, **Treasurer** Richard Nolan.

**Voting Committee Members Absent:** **Tax Collector** Patricia St.Pierre

### Fire Commissioners:

Present: Tom Demers and Warren Steere. Absent: Edward Bertholic

### Fire Chief:

Present: Chief Joseph Bertholic

### Office Clerk:

Present: Anne Chretien

## A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting were sent to all members for review and posted on the RI Secretary of State's web-site.

- **Motion** was made by Richard Lapierre to approve and waive the reading of the previous meeting minutes and seconded by Leigha Joyal. Unanimously voted "Aye" by all Committee Members present.

## B. Commissioners Report

- Nothing new to report.
- Motion made to accept by Michael Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal. Unanimously voted "Aye" by all Committee Members present.

### **C. Chief's Report**

- Runs were 50 from November 16, 2016 thru January 15, 2017. (See attached report.) Average 5 personnel per run.
- Training Building is progressing.
- Colin Fenner has completed and been certified as a Paramedic.
- A \$1,000 grant was received from the office of Sen. Paul Fogarty to purchase individual CO monitors for use at rescue calls.
- Motion to accept the Chief's report was made by Leigha Joyal and seconded by Michael Cosetta.
- Unanimously voted "Aye" by all Committee Members present.

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

- Abatements were handled.
- Still problems in the Maplehill Mobile Home park resulting in the necessity for abatements since it appears that the fire district taxes are not being handled at closings.
- Motion to accept the Tax Assessors Report was made by Richard Lapierre and seconded by Richard Nolan.
- Unanimously voted "Aye" by all Committee Members present.

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

- Collections from 9/1/2016 to 08/31/2017 which includes prior year taxes, interest and fees totaled \$480,760.81 as of January 19, 2017.
- Difference between tax collector's report and treasurer's report due to returned check.
- Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report was made by Michael Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.
- Unanimously voted "Aye" by all Committee Members present.

### **F. Treasurers Report**

- All bills are paid and up-to-date.
- Income for the current fiscal year to date totals \$428,042.21 and expenses total \$178,819.31.
- Discussion on switching payroll companies due to problems with current one and offer made by Paychex. Tabled to next meeting.
- Motion to accept the Treasurers Report as presented was made by Michael Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.
- Unanimously voted "Aye" by all Committee Members present.

## **G. Old Business**

- Building Lighting – In progress. Waiting on Peter Leone for input on changing to LEDs.
- By-Laws Committee – Draft will be sent to the members for action.
- Storage/Training Building Update – Chief reported progress stalled for winter weather.
- Fire Station Telephone System – New telephone system is installed and operational.
- Engine 14 – Still waiting for a flange for a valve. Discussion on purchasing a new valve rather than waiting for the part.
- OMFD Website – Website up and running. Positive response has been received by the taxpayers as they come in to pay their taxes.
- TDI for employees – Motion made by Richard Lapierre and seconded by Leigha Joyal to enroll in RI TDI. Unanimously voted “Aye” by all Committee Members present.
- Tax Assessor Vacancy – After verifying her eligibility Sarah Jane Fournier was appointed Tax Assessor through 2019. Motion made by Richard Lapierre and seconded by Michael Cosetta. All attending members voted “Aye” except for Leigha Joyal who abstained.
- Street Light Survey tabled pending further information regarding changeover to LEDs.

## **H. New Business**

- Discussion on replacement of Car 1. Chief Bertholic reported multiple mechanical issues and ongoing costs to repair. The Chief and Commissioner Demers recommended purchasing a new 2016 GMC 1 ton pickup they located for \$34,000 to be used as a Fire Prevention vehicle. The funds would be available from the Fire Prevention account. Motion made by Richard Lapierre and seconded by Leigha Joyal to purchase the vehicle. Unanimously voted “Aye” by all Committee Members present.
- Discussion on RI Attorney General’s Decision 17-01 regarding a complaint on Open Records Requests by Thomas and Mary Ryan. The finding of the Attorney General is that there was no violation of state law in this matter and that the matter is closed. Motion made by Richard Lapierre and seconded by Michael Cosetta to accept the report as filed and to commend Richard Nolan and the entire staff for their work on this case. Unanimously voted “Aye” by all Committee Members present.

## **I. Public Comment**

- Discussion on DPW building on Clear River Drive regarding the plat map that was filed showing that the Fire District owned adjoining property. No action taken.

## **J. Notifications and Announcements**

- The next meeting of the Fire District operating committee will be held February 22, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Fire Station.

## **K. Adjournment**

- **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm was made by Michael Cosetta and seconded by Richard Lapierre.
- Unanimously voted “Aye” by all Committee Members present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Richard J. Lapierre, District Clerk