



POQUONNOCK BRIDGE FIRE DISTRICT

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 11, 2016

Present: President Ken Richards, Vice President Ron Yuhas, Directors Alan, Ackley, Randy Ackley, Barry Adcock, Ron, Johnson, David King, Clerk Susan Aguiar, Chief Joseph Winski, Deputy Chief Tim Driscoll

Absent: Treasurer Tom Santacroce, Jamie Muhlack

At 7:04 p.m. President Richards announced the call to order with the time, date and place. Roll call was taken to establish a quorum. A moment of silence and a pledge to the flag followed.

Remarks from Visitors –

Old Mystic Chief Ken Richard was invited to speak about development of volunteer department. First he wanted to note that PBF is not the same dept it was over a year ago, and we should all be proud of that. He has seen a huge turn around in the department all for the better and it is a "breath of fresh air" for everyone including the mutual aid companies and for us as a board. As far as volunteer recruitment and retention goes, it is a nationwide problem. He is putting a program on at the national fire chief's conference this year in San Antonio, Texas about volunteer recruitment and retention. We are not alone; everyone is in the same boat nationwide. There is a down click of people wanting to volunteer due to many reasons; 2 people working more than one job, work schedules, etc. From his experience the biggest that gets volunteers into departments is word of mouth. In the past it has been discouraged for Poquonnock Bridge, some 10 years ago it was told to at the local fire chiefs meeting that Poquonnock Bridge does not have a volunteer dept, and they don't plan on having one in the future. You can have a volunteer dept but it will not happen overnight. Chief Richard will be more than happy to help us in any way possible, but it will take time.

Gale Goode read an article about the decibel levels of the truck sirens and how some Departments across the country were involved with lawsuits due to firefighters having hearing loss due to placement of sirens on trucks and asked if our department was being proactive in avoiding any hearing issues for the safety of our men.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: It was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to accept the regular meeting minutes from January 14, 2016. (7-0).

Reports and Communications: –

Chief Winski presented his report for January and it was accepted for the record.

Deputy Chief Discoll presented his report for January and it was accepted for the record.

Fire Marshalls Report accepted for the record

Old Business –

Ron Yuhas stated that he met with Auditor regarding OPEB audit. We owe OPEB account same amount that we thought, approx \$13-\$15 million. But Auditor stated that it is quite common with these accounts. Deputy Chief Tim Driscoll spoke with Forma Investment Group; they are willing to maintain investment account. Forma Group deals with quite a few towns in the area that have OPEB accounts. He told Tim that the investment account would basically be pro-bono as it was not a big account but if we had them administer the account it would not cost that much he was not sure what the fees would be but it would be minimal. This gentleman was very professional, helpful and very informative. There was another investment firm Tim spoke with that said he would manage it for free, but his free was; give him the money, he would tell us where to invest it and then we deal with it from then on. There was no real assistance from him at all, as we were such a small account. Forma Group is a division of Morgan Stanley. Both Ron Yuhas and Ken Richard agreed that Forma Group would be the firm to start with and we are not locked into working with them for any length of time if we choose to change. Jamie Muhlack was also involved in the meeting as well and she felt that they would be the better choice to work with as well. Tim will find out more information and get back with the board at the next meeting.

President Ken Richard brought up the OPEB audit. When they met with auditor it was noted that our accrued liability is \$14,787,255.00, which we have nothing in account now. The auditor stated it is not something we should be worried about as we are taking steps to contribute to account, unlike other departments that are not. They also stated that we should be putting in \$1.1 million every year. We are on the right track as we have been paying \$314,000.00 out of pocket every year and from a real world standpoint we are doing very good as we are taking care of our liability. So in reality we should only be putting \$865,000.00 into account. So with that being said we are paying our current liability but not catching up on our future liability. So with us taking the steps of putting the \$50,000.00 in every year is good, because as you invest the current average return is 3.75 and some people are averaging a higher rate. As per the audit we have been doing things correctly but as per a new law from the federal government we have to have an OPEB audit every 2 years. As a side note, President Ken Richard had Mark Murphy from the union come to the meeting as well so that the union would be informed and aware of what was going on. It was noted after the meeting that Jamie's numbers were right on with what the auditor came up with.

New Business –

The State of Office and Policy management has not received our audit report for the fiscal year ending 2015 for Poquonnock Bridge Fire District. They have also not received a file extension, therefore we are considered delinquent. Chief Winski has made a couple of calls to the auditor that does our yearly audit and has gotten no response. This audit was supposed to be completed in December 2015. This same issue happened last year as well. Ron Yuhas will contact auditor to resolve issue.

Barry Adcock brought up the recruitment process for the volunteer department and advertising for volunteers, he has met with radio station for prices to run ads. The Board will go over the radio ad proposal and Barry will do some more research to see how effective radio ads are for volunteers and we will discuss at a later date. But in the mean time Ron Yuhas made a motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 to make an all weather banner to put across route 1 to advertise for Volunteers. Barry will get Susan information that he wants to put on banner and Susan will have it made up. Ron Johnson seconded motion. Motion passed 7-0

Good of the Department -

Deputy Chief Driscoll said that Chief Ed Amatrudo had passed away

Chief Winski noted that Jeff Ducet is now at 100% recovery, and back to work.

Presentation and payment of bills – President Ken Richards announced that the bills to be paid for January 2016 were \$85,180.24, bills accepted.

MOTION: At 8:37 PM it was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Aguiar, Clerk
Poquonnock Bridge Fire District