



**HOPKINTON FIRE DISTRICT**  
2876 State Highway 11B  
Hopkinton, New York 12965  
(315) 328-4682

Commissioners Meeting – September 13, 2012

Present: Frank Barney, Gerald Goldsworth, Mike Opal, Dale Nicholson, Jim Hollenbeck, Sue Wood

Guest: Vickie French, Steve Parker, Ernest Wood, Ron Streeter

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Frank Barney. Additions to the agenda include Stewart McCollum under old business, equipment from truck, dry hydrant, commissioner course, electrical safety, 2% resolution, fuel pump replacement and material from Lowe's under new business. Mike Opal (Dale Nicholson) made a motion to accept the revised agenda. All in favor; motion carried.

Minutes from the August 9 meeting were presented. Jim Hollenbeck requested that Steve Parker be changed to Jim Hollenbeck in reference to the complaint from Ron Streeter. Jim Hollenbeck (Mike Opal) made a motion to accept the minutes as revised. All in favor; motion carried. Minutes from the truck committee meetings of August 15 and August 23 were presented. Jim Hollenbeck (Mike Opal) made a motion to accept the August 15 meeting, with a correction removing Dale Nicholson as attending. All in favor; motion carried. Dale Nicholson (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion to accept the minutes from August 23; all in favor; motion carried.

The following bills were presented for payment:

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| • Malone Lumber & Ready Mix | \$256.68 (prepaid) |
| • National Grid             | \$125.78 (prepaid) |
| • Stickney's Garage         | \$3,596.06         |
| • Champlain Communications  | \$154.78           |
| • Nicholville Telephone     | \$72.03            |
| • Wilbers Hardware          | \$28.08            |
| • Town of Hopkinton         | \$107.45           |
| • Lamphere's Market         | \$186.32           |
| • Northern NY Newspapers    | \$19.43            |

Dale Nicholson (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion for approval of the September bills. All in favor; motion carried.

The September financial report was presented. The beginning of the month showed a balance of \$53,559.37. Once the September claims are paid, the current balance will be \$49,012.76. Statements have not been received on the Capital or Equipment Reserve funds. Mike Opal (Dale Nicholson) made a motion to approve the financial report. All in favor; motion carried.

#### Privilege of Floor

Ron Streeter spoke regarding fuel from the town garage and a statement in the May minutes relating to not being allowed to get fuel. Ron stated this was untrue. The district has been getting the fuel from the town garage. A key was missing from the fire station. He feels that the town and district have a shared agreement. Frank Barney reported that this statement came from a chief.

Vickie French asked what the total cost of the new fuel tank was. The tank was donated, the labor was donated, \$256.68 for the blocks and cement and \$672.97 for the parts for a total of \$929.65. The inside of the blocks still need to be painted and the roof needs to be moved over. Vickie responded that she felt this was a lot to spend on when there was equipment currently being used. Jim Hollenbeck responded that he does not feel everyone should have access to a key to the town garage as you must go into the garage to turn on the pump. All members have a key to the fire station but only the chiefs have access to the pump. All fuel needs to be logged.

#### Chief's Report

Chief Parker reported that there are still interior firemen who need an interior physical: Jake Hollenbeck, Lance Lesperance and Colin Pearl. Interior firemen who still need to be fit tested include: Lance Lesperance, Jake Hollenbeck, Dale Nicholson, Jared McCargar, Phil Wagner and Colin Pearl. Environmental Services will be back in the area at the end of November/early December doing physicals. The above firefighters will be notified that this is the last possible date to have physicals done. If they do not have them done at this time, they will not be allowed to wear SCBA and perform interior operations. Dr. Schwartzberg from Lake Placid is interested in coming to Hopkinton and doing the physicals for the same price. Steve will contact Ron Streeter for the information. A new application was received from David Perry. David has served in the Duane Fire Department. The membership has conditionally accepted him pending a letter from Duane Fire Department. The arson report has been received and he is clear. An RAM application has been received from Heather Nicholson. The RAM committee will interview her and her parents in the next month. The dialog is continuing with Lake Ozonia Association about options to help provide fire protection at the lake. The commissioners will be kept up-to-date on these discussions. All portable equipment on the apparatuses have been started and ran. All appear to be good. There was a small problem with getting the extrication hydraulic pump started. Further investigation into this will need to be done. The generators were started and ran for awhile; all seem to be functioning properly. A list of equipment wants/needs was presented for budget planning:

- Flashlights (individual)
- Led Traffic Wands
- Pagers (currently have no spares)
- Hand Tools
- Small Quad Fold Ladder for E-41
- PPE (will need to replace 8-10 sets by 2014)

A work detail will be held soon. If the District would like anything done, please let Steve know. Calls for the month included an MVA on Route 55 and 11B on 8/3 with 5 members (which was actually on Route 55 and St. Hwy 11 which was out of the district); on 8/5 power lines across the road at 1722 Lake Ozonia with 7 members and on 8/21 an MVA near 2807 St. Hwy 11B with 6 members. Dale Nicholson (Gerald Goldsworth) made a motion to accept the Chief's report. All in favor; motion carried.

### New Business

Mike Opal (Dale Nicholson) made a motion to accept David Perry as a new member upon receiving a letter from Duane Fire Department showing he left in good standing. All in favor; motion carried.

Dale Nicholson asked whether the district is all set for radios and narrow banding. We have 2 mobiles in R71 and E49 that are narrow band compatible. The commissioners asked Steve to get a count on what portables will need to be replaced. Dale Nicholson (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion to purchase 4 radio/pagers and 2 mobiles at current state contract pricing to be consistent with the models currently being used. All in favor; motion carried.

Dale Nicholson (Jim Hollenbeck) made a motion to purchase 2 carbon bottles. These were built into the 2012 budget. All in favor; motion carried.

Attorney Young emailed regarding the truck purchase and the specifications. Generic specifications will need to be developed for bidding and will need to go to public referendum. He would like to be involved so he knows that all the correct steps were taken. The truck committee is in the process of putting the specifications together. Gerald Goldsworth asked the intention was to borrow the money or do a bond. Various options will need to be looked at once we know the pricing.

The 2013 budget needs to be worked on. The following dates were scheduled:

- September 24 at 6:30 for a working session
- September 25 at 6:30 for a working session
- October 16 – Public Hearing on the proposed budget
- November 7 – Date that budget needs to be passed and turned in

The public hearing on the 2% property tax override was held earlier this evening. Jim Hollenbeck (Mike Opal) made a motion to approve the following resolution to override the 2% property tax cap.

*PROPOSED RESOLUTION*

*HOPKINTON BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE*

*Proposed resolution, entitled "To override the Tax Levy Limit established in General Municipal Law 3-c*

*Section 1. Legislative Intent*

*It is the intent of this resolution to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Hopkinton Board of Fire Commissioners, Town of Hopkinton, County of St. Lawrence pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c, and to all the Board of Commissioners, Town of Hopkinton, County of St. Lawrence to adopt a budget for fire purposes for the fiscal year 2013 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.*

*Section 2. Authority*

*This resolution is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c, which expressly authorizes the board of fire commissioners to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a resolution approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the commissioners.*

*Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override*

*The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Town of Hopkinton, County of St. Lawrence is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2013 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law, § 3-c.*

*Section 4. Severability*

*In any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this resolution of the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this resolution or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, indirectly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.*

*Section 5. Effective date*

*This resolution shall take effect immediately upon filing.*

All in favor, motion carried.

One sheet of metal, 10' electrical conduit needs to be ordered from Lowe's to complete the enclosing of the diesel tank. Mike Opal (Gerald Goldsworth) made a motion to allow the purchase of the material at a cost not to exceed \$200. All in favor; motion carried.

Dale Nicholson brought up a concern he had regarding electrical safety and members cutting trees off electrical lines. We don't know if generators are hooked up incorrectly and should not touch anything until confirmation is received that they are safe. We do not have the tools available.

Frank Barney has cleaned the fuel pump several times. As this works sometimes and then quits again, it needs to be replaced. Mike Opal (Dale Nicholson) made a motion to purchase a new pump and fuel gauge. All in favor; motion carried. Jim Hollenbeck will order from MX fuels.

### Old Business

It has been advised that Dale Nicholson does need to retake the training modules he missed on line. He will need to find out which sections are missing. The state auditor will need to look at the certificates if we are audited.

Steve Parker, Ernest Wood and Greg Crump have looked at places in Lake Ozonia to place a dry hydrant. The water is real low right now. Holes will need to be drilled in the pipes.

Gerald Goldsworth questioned what to do with the equipment from ETA44. We are hoping to leave the truck at the town garage until we can go to the public for a public hearing on the purchase of a replacement truck. There could be a possibility of a trade-in. The equipment can stay on the truck for now.

After reviewing the municipal law, Stewart McCollom cannot invest public money.

Garth Brooks, E-One representative, sent an email checking in and to see if we are going forward with a new truck. He also asked to be informed when we are ready with the specifications.

Frank Barney attended the webinar on the 2% property tax cap.

Dale Nicholson (Mike Opal) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

