

# Nichols Fire District Monthly Meeting

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**July 8, 2014**

## **Attendees**

Commissioner Doug Doyle  
Commissioner Rick Perachio  
Treasurer Barbara Plofkin  
Tax Collector Hank Owen  
Secretary Curt Robinson  
Assistant Chief John Delvento  
Chief J. Brian McGovern – arrived at 19:50

Absent

Commissioner Ron Butz, Sr.

Meeting called to order at 19:30

## **1. June 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Doyle asked if there were any questions about the report that was presented. Motion made by Commissioner Perachio, seconded by Commissioner Doyle. Passed unanimously.

## **2. Tax Collector Report**

Mr. Owen presented his written report and reported that we had a good month for this time of year.

98.7% for tax year 2013, 96.7% if you include delinquencies. Total collections have gone up 25% if you look over the past few years. Mr. Owen sent out 2,590 bills and 664 bills to escrow companies. Mr. Owen reported the equipment worked well, he enlisted Secretary Robinson for some technical issues, and overall things went smoothly. Mr. Owen did report that in the conversion software, which Mr. Lang has not isolated, the assessment value utilized applied was the previous years and not the current year, as appropriate. The personal property assessment, which includes depreciation, would not be accurate and approximately 600-800 adjusted bills will need to be issued. This is being investigated and corrections will be made. The 60/80 Merritt Blvd credit that was due has been applied, it totaled \$27,865. The credit was applied and will be reflected in next month's report. The total billed for them, minus the credit was \$62,684.

Motion to accept by Commissioner Perachio and seconded by Commissioner Doyle as published.

Mr. Owen did ask that the table and chair be put down in the front lobby and the area be cleared so he can adequately do his collections.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Barbara Plofkin presented her written report. She noted that there are 2 more weeks to get their bills in for the 2013-2014. Treasurer Plofkin reported she will make a print-out. She noted one PO for \$8.99, this charge was for 2 gas caps and the original PO only reflected one. This was corrected. There was an additional charge made for physicals, a credit was issued and applied. Treasurer Plofkin reported that she has better communications with Med-Now about billing. The payment for the new "Car-3" was made from the "Contingency" account. Commissioner Perachio had a question about an Allegra Printing bill, there was one for the BARF memorial, but there will be an outstanding bill related to printing for the Tax Collector. Commissioner Doyle inquired that we are roughly \$31,000 under budget at the moment. There was discussion about remaining outstanding bills.

A/C Delvento and Treasurer Plofkin took a look at some outstanding bills, unable to determine outstanding total amounts.

There were bills presented from Firematics that were not done prior to June 30, but the work had not been completed. All bills must be applied once the work has been completed.

Motion to accept the report by Commissioner Perachio and seconded by Commissioner Doyle. Passed unanimously.

### 4. Introductory Interviews

There were no introductions.

### 5. Chief Remarks / Comments

- Commissioner Doyle brought up a previous discussion about a "District Administrator" position. There was a discussion around the responsibilities of this role.
- Chief McGovern reported that there are 11-members going to the Firehouse Expo in Baltimore. The plan is to use GSA reimbursements, post-conference, for members who can show the conference classes they attended. There were questions about the new Car-3 being utilized to go to Baltimore, this is open. The current Car-3 is also being detailed at Family Garage. The members are also trying to combine transportation to the Fire Expo, with some success. Discussions about credit limits on the District credit cards.
- Chief McGovern raised the question about notifying the Town Clerk about the monthly meeting agenda. The Secretary will take care of this.
- Chief McGovern asked about the By-law specification about the order of meetings in a month, inquiring whether it might make sense to switch the Commission Meeting and the Officer's Meeting. By switching these meetings, it could shorten the time necessary to conduct Department meetings. This would require a By-law revision for the Department. It will need to be confirmed that this does not require the District By-laws.

## 6. Correspondence and/or Invoices

- Commissioner Perachio presented a bill for Alliance to the order of \$11,880. There was a question about some water damage from a leaking condensation pan. The bill was received on June 30 and will be applied to the 2013-2014 budget.
- Commissioner Perachio presented a yearly contract proposal for the alarm system monitoring and maintenance. Credited for the bill to Station #2. A copy of the letter to SimplexGrinnell was included in the monthly record.
- Assistant Chief Engineer David Gillis reported that he has the information about CT Statutes that don't incur registration fees for Fire Apparatus.

## 7. Old Business

- TRDC to C-MED transition for dispatching service
  - Commissioner Doyle raised the question whether the outstanding bills and costs regarding TRDC are concluded. There was no final word if this is completed. Chief McGovern asked about keeping the TRDC Corporation. Commissioner Doyle reported that this is still an open topic. The next TRDC Board Meeting is this coming Monday. This question will be raised.
- Status, Station 1 Generator
  - Most work has been completed, and the remaining work is by the warrantee and service holder. It is anticipated that they will not be available to do their work until the week of July 14<sup>th</sup>. No further payments will be made until complete, 50% has been paid thus far.
- Status, Rescue/Engine New Truck Committee
  - Commissioner Doyle reported that the rate on the lease have been going down. There will be no payments due until fall of 2015. The question about a cash-equity contribution is still in discussion, but is desirable, in the neighborhood of \$200,000. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to pursue this, Commissioner Perachio seconded this. Unanimously passed.
  - Commissioner Doyle asked about any meetings regarding the discussions about the usage of Hurst equipment. Chief McGovern reported that there was a consensus on a revised equipment design, incorporating a combination of pre-plumbed hydraulic tools and the battery-operated tools. The plan is to move forward on the purchase of the Hurst edraullic tools prior to the end of this year.
- Station 1 Projects
  - Commissioner Doyle reported there is nothing to report on the rear garage project.
  - Commissioner Doyle reported that the kitchen project is progressing, but the committee is not set to go out to contractor bid. The next step will be identifying contractors and to have pre-qualifying meetings.
- Documentation project for diesel fuel removal.
  - Commissioner Doyle asked that we may need to have someone else to perform the investigation. Commissioner Perachio said he will ask Past Chief John Butz about the records. Commissioner Perachio reported that Michael Corica did look in the attic at Station #1 and was unable to find anything.
- Commissioner Doyle inquired about taking Engine 302 to the Hahn anniversary in PA. Chief McGovern raised no questions. Commissioner Doyle will be looking for 3-5 members to go, along with an accompanying car. It might incur upwards of \$400 in fuel. Reunion is in Hamburg, PA.
- Station 1 Window Replacement Project – Commissioner Doyle reported that he has quotes from “Renewable by Anderson”, Pella and Marvin. These are being conducted by the manufacturers, some

being installed by the factory or the factory recommended company. Chief McGovern reported that DeGeorge might be worth looking at as an alternative

- A/C Delvento reported that the new Command Vehicle has been received. Sign Maintenance is working on the lettering, Gowans-Knight will do the outfitting and will need to go to ComTronics for the radio work. The new Car-3 will be insured tomorrow, July 9, and the old Car-3 will remain on the policy for the next couple weeks. Will go into service in the next couple weeks.
- Alcohol Policy – this was tabled

## **8. New Business**

- Commissioner Doyle reported that John Butz and Ron Butz, Jr. are requesting that they become sponsored by the NFD for the Fairfield County Hazmat Communications Team. Commissioner Perachio was in agreement.
- Commissioner Doyle reported that he had a discussion with Tom Miller from The Insurance Exchange and they will be looking at further enhancing the coverages available for a policy. Commissioner Perachio mentioned a life insurance policy with another agency, in addition to the other policies that are in place. This policy was through the CT State Fireman's Association. Commissioner Doyle reiterated that he would like to see a total benefit of around \$500,000 in the event of a Line of Duty Death.
- Commissioner Doyle raised the question about the redesign of the Membership Roster regarding the applicability to the membership for Insurance purposes. No designation of sections to separate or identify as sections.

## **9. Remarks/Comments**

Meeting adjourned 21:24

Respectfully Submitted,

Capt. Curt Robinson  
Secretary  
Nichols Fire District