

CHARLTON FIRE DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes: March 2009

March 14, 2009

Meeting called to Order: 9:05am

Present: Doug Sargent, Kevin O'Connor, Duane Rabideau; Bill Heilman
(arrived at 9:30)

Absent: Dave Milne

Next meeting: April 4th, 2009 9:00am

I. Minutes from previous month:

Doug Sargent made a motion accepting the minutes from February, Duane Rabideau 2nd, motion carried.

II. Correspondence

- Thank you note from the Morgans
- Thank you note from the Milnes
- Thank you note from McNeil & Co.
- Association of Fire Districts: Meeting and annual dinner

III. Treasurer's Report

Interest for the month of February \$94.48, bills paid totaled \$17,734.80. Kevin O'Connor made the motion to accept the treasurer's report, Doug Sargent 2nd the motion, motion carried.

IV. Chief's Report

Calls for February – 16

EMS	7
Electrical Emerg	1
Structure	3
C/O Alarms	1
Vehicle Fire	1
Mutual Aid	3

- The Chief presented the letter that he sent to the Town of Charlton regarding the fire. Supposedly the Town Board addressed the letter at their meeting last Monday night. The article in today's paper was brought up and it was mentioned again at the lack of support by the Town Supervisor for the fire department.

- Pike poles and entry tools received.

- Vests and extrication gloves are due within the next two weeks.

- Ceiling tiles and lights complete in the meeting room, hallway & kitchen.

- Gas keys with the town are working ok..

- The Chief is working with SEMO and FEMA on equipment reimbursement. Equipment time is reimbursable to the fire district, man hours are not since we are a volunteer fire department. FEMA is paying the expenses and according to FEMA since we cannot keep the man hour reimbursement, we do have bragging rights when the money is presented to the Town from the Fire Dept. The Dept/District can state that they are giving the money to the town in order for bulk pickup to be paid and the fireworks at Founder's Day. The Dept/District can issue a press release when this money is turned over and can also state what they want or expect the money to go to. The Chief also explained why he did not invite Supervisor Grattidge to our banquet. He stated this was his choice and due to the fact that Supervisor Grattidge has not supported nor endorsed the fire department where as Fred Acunto was and still is there for the firemen during an emergency or any other matter he chose not to invite the supervisor. Fred has always thanked the firemen and offered any and all help he could give.

- Two ceiling fans for the meeting room are approximately \$400 each for a commercial fan.

- Lights in the engine room also need to be changed. Energy efficient and new ballasts are needed.

· Comments were made by members of the snow mobile club when the trail was closed during the fire at the Charlton Tavern. The trail was blocked due to the fire and this should have been understandable by the snow mobile club.

V. Old Business

Resolutions from last month need to be voted on:

60-2009: NBT Signature change: Kevin O'Connor made a motion approving this resolution, Doug Sargent 2nd, all in favor, yes. Motion carried.

61-2009: Removal of Bank signature: Kevin O'Connor made a motion approving this resolution, Bill Heilman 2nd, all in favor, yes. Motion carried.

62-2009: Update of personnel records. Kevin O'Connor made a motion approving this resolution, Doug Sargent 2nd the motion, all in favor, yes. Motion carried.

63-2009: Monthly bills. Kevin O'Connor made a motion approving this resolution, Duane Rabideau 2nd, all in favor, yes. Motion carried.

The secretary did not print the beverage resolution and did not have agendas for the meeting due to her computer's motherboard dying. She will have the beverage resolution at the next meeting.

John Pennock: Bill Heilman as left a message at John's office and has not heard back.

The treasurer received a phone call from Mr. Mango on Florence regarding the increase in fire tax shown on his property tax bill. The treasurer explained how fire taxes were calculated. Mr. Mango had a copy of this year's budget that he acquired at town hall and had other questions. The treasurer informed him that the questions would have to be put in writing and then the questions can be answered.

Blog: Webmaster has set up a question and answer section at the fire district website. At this time there has been no postings other than the first post by the webmaster.

Commissioners class: Doug Sargent did attend and has information on this under new business.

1st Responder article is completed and on line. There will be an article in the paper.

McNeil will be sending someone to video tape the building, contents and trailer. This will be in the next couple of weeks.

Inspection dinner is tonight at the Elks club. Duane will be conducting the oath of office.

Doug Sargent asked when the dumpster was going. The secretary will be calling in the next week to have the dumpster removed.

18-5: Kevin O'Connor did not have an updated status on the truck. Kevin stated that he may go up and get 18-5 and bring it here.

VI. New Business

Cleaning contract, the sheet filled out by Pete O'Brien and Bill Heilman, Doug Sargent has made some changes to this and would like this contract description approved. One change is the 8 year cycle to be changed to as needed. Bill Heilman made a motion accepting the changes for resolution, Kevin O'Connor 2nd the motion, all in favor, yes. Motion carried.

Bill Heilman asked if we had a description on file for snowplowing and lawn care. We had a snow plowing description a few years ago but it has not been updated. Bill Heilman will write up description for review.

Doug Sargent attended the commissioner training class; a trial lawyer out of Elsmere who is a firefighter conducted the class. Doug mentioned the lawsuits due to the gray area in some laws, one judge did not know the difference between a Fire Department and a Fire District. There are rules by the state and rules by the town, where there are areas of difference, it is up to the board to use its best judgment. In cases where there has been a mistake by the Board, acknowledging the mistake and taking corrective measures will satisfy the state and legal system. When there is a 2nd offense is when we see lawsuits. Doug mentioned the opening of the cleaning bid by Dave and Dave' attempt to correct this at the next meeting. Doug also mentioned having a deputy secretary/treasurer. Other items

mentioned by Doug are the same items given to the Board last fall by the Secretary: following the fire district guide, material purchases, travel policy and procedures, communication. It was mentioned about our public meeting and the fact that it only was listed in the legal notices. For community notes, this is up to the news desk. If you want an article then you have to have Steve Williams or another reported write an article. The last item covered by Doug that was covered in class is the creative financing some districts are trying to do, an example is what Dave Milne was suggesting. This is big NO, bonding needs to be pure and for the full amount needed for the project. Any creative financing does not look to the future since the future is uncertain. Do not look to the future in order to pay for something, bonding should be separate and clean. Doug mentioned how when a case is settled in court, each case is different and just because the district won in the once instance they lose in another. Doug mentioned some lawsuits like the chain saw gas.

Bill Heilman made a motion approving \$1500 for ceiling fans and lights. Duane Rabideau 2nd the motion, motion carried. Bill and Dean discussed chains or a switch, both determined running a switch will be better. Kevin O'Connor asked how the fans will be connected to the ceiling, discussion between Dean and Kevin.

Bill Heilman was asked if he would like flowers sent for the passing of his father in law. Bill said no to the flowers but did make a motion approving \$100 donation to St. Judes, Doug Sargent 2nd the motion, motion carried.

Chief's Report addition: Dean will be attending a meeting Monday night in Middle Grove for the Association of Fire Chief's, John Mazor and the Fire Advisory board will be in attendance for questions and answers regarding new system. New pagers will be here end of March beginning of April. After one year the Fire District owns the pagers, 1 per firefighter. Should buy 10 extra, the Minator 5's can be converted at an approximate cost of \$45 each. Dean will write up recommendation for the next meeting.

Bill Smith brought up approved applications for membership. Scott Fura and Mike Cady. Doug Sargent made a motion approving the new members,

Kevin O'Connor 2nd the motion, motion carried. The secretary to add them to the SIF roles.

Bill Heilman stated that Gabby cannot locate her key or pager. Bill stated she will have to pay for the missing items.

VII. Privilege of the Floor: Bill Heilman stepped into the audience and spoke as a resident. Bill mentioned that we do have a resolution on board that states no drinking during drills, active calls and meetings. There have been comments made that there are some members who feel they can do this regardless. The Chief is in charge and if a fire commissioner, firemen etc.. wants to drink then they should go home or to a local bar and not be drinking during drills, calls and meetings. Kevin O'Connor asked who said something because we should know who has something, Bill Heilman stated Will LaRue. Dean did state that there have been times with some drinking during meetings, calls and while others are out cleaning the trucks. Kevin O'Connor said that he thought Dave Milne was going to reinforce this at the department meeting. According to Bill Smith, Dave Milne did not bring this up at the meeting and the Board felt this should be brought up at the meeting. Bill Smith stated he will bring it up at the next department meeting that there is to be no drinking during meetings, drills or active calls until everyone has assisted in getting apparatus and trucks back in service. The Board of Fire Commissioners thanked citizen Bill Heilman for his time

VIII. Meeting Adjourned: 10:10 am