

**DALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

**July 30, 2019**

Present: Chairman James Driscoll, Michael Kubicki, Camillus Cachat, Clerk Cheryl Cachat,  
Fire Chief Cahalan, Water Superintendent Benlien

Public: Al Nadeau, Richard Trudell, Peter Cachat, Chris Cachat, Peter Brower, Frank Barnes Jr.,  
Chad Scovil, Ed Denham

Jim Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**General Business:**

- Minutes
  - o Jim Driscoll made a motion to accept the minutes from June 25, 2019 as printed, Michael Kubicki seconded, approved unanimously

**Correspondence:**

- No Correspondence

**New England Woodland Management:**

- Request an amendment to Timber Sale 46 giving Gerard Cloutier the authority to assign a portion of the harvest to Greene Lumber Company, LP
- Ed Denham explained that this is not an unusual contract change, all Commissioners agreed and signed the addendum
- Overview of Timber Sale 45 which is being done by Sweeney has had to file a request with the Hinsdale Conservation Committee due to the natural change of a brook course which now runs thru the landing and access area

**Ambulance Report:**

- Chad Scovil reported that to date the ambulance has had 50 calls in the month of June
- The new ambulance has been sent back for an issue with the air conditioning and a loaner is being utilized

**Fire Department:**

- 593 calls to date this year
- New Engine 1 will be in service next week after a dedication ceremony this Sunday (August 4) to "Pop Krum" the only Dalton firefighter to die in the line of duty
- Chief gave 4 potential uses for the old Engine 1
  - o List as surplus property and put out to bid
  - o Keep in service as a reserve engine
    - Not NFPA compliant
  - o Donate to Fire Association as a parade and fire prevention unit

- Sell or donate to another fire department
  - Clearly state that the engine is not NFPA compliant
- Chief stated any option is acceptable
- Discussion of options
  - Jim D. asked what would need to be done if kept, Chief stated biggest cost is the pump that would need an estimated 25,000 – 45,000 in repairs but the truck due to its age would stay in non-compliance for NFPA standards
  - Jim D asked if given to Association?, Chief - it would not stay at station
  - Mike clarified that if the truck was deemed the cause of an accident would the District be liable – yes in the opinion of the Chief
  - Cam questioned the pump cost, Chief stated it was based on an old quote from VRS
- Jim asked if any of the audience would like to speak –
- Chris Cachat asked to
  - Clarified the truck is a 1989 not a 1988 as listed
  - Stated he believed the truck is more structurally sound than other newer trucks, less rust
  - Is “old school” and can be worked on by any mechanic as it is non-computer
  - Still has a useful position at fire for ex: hose laying
  - Discussion of other uses of vehicle, for example funeral piece
  - Voiced teaching the new members about the legacy and history of the department
  - Asked for clarification of NFPA standards vs OSHA
  - Asked Commissioners to consider keeping as a reserve piece for the department
    - Believes the station can be arranged to accommodate the engine
- Al Nadeau
  - Agreed with Chris regarding the value of keeping the engine
  - Stated in today's society we are too quick to throw away items of use
- No further discussion from audience, Commissioner
  - Mike Kubicki is in favor of keeping as a reserve but would like firm numbers on repairs
  - Cam Cachat is in favor of keeping as a reserve piece, as an alternate in case of breakdown of front line engine
  - Jim Driscoll is in favor of keeping as reserve due to concerns regarding the electronic repair issues with new trucks but wants to get pump repaired
- **MOTION- Mike Kubicki**
  - The Dalton Fire District retain the old Engine 1 1989-1988 Pierce as a reserve piece and investigate the cost to repair the pump.
  - Jim Driscoll seconds, vote unanimous in favor

### **Water Department:**

- Hydrant replacement at 3 locations
  - Washington Mt. Rd, Mountain View Drive, Broadview Terrace
- Completed and filed the Emergency Action Plan Updates for both dams
- Reservoir Dam has been mowed and trimmed
- During the month of August the lead & copper testing reports are due to be completed
- When the Sanitary Survey was done new Master Plan reports (Asset Management, Rate Study) are required to be done by District. Tighe & Bond informed Bob of a DEP state grant that is available which will pay for Tighe & Bond to complete the requirements. Also included will be a GIS system integrated into a laptop for use in the field. The grant would be a split of 20% - 80%, with an approximate cost to the District of \$10,000
  - Unanimous approval to go forward with the grant proposal

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- Jim Driscoll made a motion to appoint Cheryl Cachat District Treasurer for the fiscal year 2020
  - o Mike Kubicki second, Jim Driscoll, Mike Kubicki in favor, Cam Cachat abstain, passes
- Jim Driscoll made a motion to appoint Cheryl Cachat District Clerk for the fiscal year 2020
  - o Mike Kubicki second, Jim Driscoll, Mike Kubicki in favor, Cam Cachat abstain, passes
- Jim Driscoll made a motion to appoint Mike Kubicki Assistant District Treasurer for the fiscal year 2020
  - o Cam Cachat second, Jim Driscoll, Cam Cachat in favor, Mike Kubicki abstain, passes
- The annual step raise chart will be inserted into the Employee Handbook. These rates are what the budget for FY20 was calculated with and include the annual COLA raise
- A/R update - 41 accounts outstanding, 13 on payment plans and 28 outstanding, approx \$7,700 frequent offenders will be shut off
- The letters for the residences that will have rate changes after the review of the Assessor reports and the water billing system were sent in the beginning of July.
  - o If the property owner disagreed with the assessment, they were told to contact the Assessor's office
  - o The homeowners that were overcharged voiced complaints. The Treasurer asked permission to offer an abatement of one year to these homeowners.
  - o The Commissioners agreed to offer an abatement
- The Baseline Study from the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) is complete. The annual meeting with DFW needs to be scheduled. Previously it was decided to hold this meeting during the day with DFW being the only agenda item. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to contact DFW with 2-3 options in October / November for meetings.
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## **Other Business**

Mike had asked the Chief about the use of foam that contains PFOA by the department. The Chief stated the department may have used for practice but not in everyday use.

Cam asked Bob about water testing at the schools in town. Bob explained that the Central Berkshire schools had tested all their buildings last year. The cycle for testing is given out by DEP and they choose the buildings including schools, nursery schools, etc to be tested.

The next meeting will be August 27, 2019 at 6:30pm

Jim Driscoll made a motion to adjourn at 7:17 pm, seconded by Mike Kubicki, passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Cachat  
Treasurer/Clerk