

DALTON
FIRE
DISTRICT

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DALTON, MA. 01226

DALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

July 26, 2016

Present: James Driscoll, Michael Kubicki, Camillus Cachat, Bob Benlien, Gerry Cahalan and Debbie Brunelle.

Public: Al Nadeau, Cheryl Cachat

James Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Jim made the motion to accept the minutes of the June 7, 8, 21, 26 and July 5 meeting minutes as printed, Mike Kubicki seconded, Camillus Cachat abstained from accepting the June 7, 8, 21, and 26 minutes, All in favor.

General Business:

- No correspondence.
- Overtime calculations for District employees – Jim Driscoll made the motion to pay overtime on 15 minute intervals for District employees, Mike Kubicki seconded, all approved.
- Jim Driscoll welcomed new District employee Cheryl Cachat and made the motion to appoint Cheryl Cachat assistance treasurer/clerk on August 1, 2016, Mike seconded, all approved.
- The starting rate for the new water department employee will be \$15.00 per hour.
- Ambulance tabled.
- Chad Scovil came in at 7:00 and spoke about issues with the ambulance.
 - o He will ask the Board if the ambulance will pay overtime and reimburse the District.
 - o Looking to see Monday thru Friday, 6 pm to 6 am shift in the station. Chad believes there will be more interest adding this shift.
 - o Problems with Medicare and Medicaid only paying the allowed rate, not always the billed rate.
 - o Chad believes the call volume is way up with the same number of personnel.
 - o The volunteers are spear heading with the State of Massachusetts a new law of having only 1 EMT and 1 First Responder answer ambulance calls.
 - o The Dalton Ambulance has a contract with County ambulance being the primary and Action Ambulance the secondary.
 - o The Commissioners would like to have a representative from the Ambulance at the monthly meetings for updates and concerns until this is straightened out.
 - o The Ambulance Board is: Scott Casella, President; Raymond Ferin, Vice President/Ambulance Director; Chad Scovil, Treasurer; Kenneth Sagendorf, Secretary. The Board of Directors is: Daniel Downer, Dennis Tinker, and Frank Barnes.

Fire Department:

- The new chief's vehicle is in. The lights are being installed now. The lettering will be done next week. The cost of the vehicle was \$33,000 from Liberty Chevrolet. The chief bought a Tahoe and was given a trade in value of \$6,000.00. The new vehicle came in as a police package.
- Chief will be taking a vacation day on Tuesday, July 26.

- The Chief does not think the ambulance is making the calls. County Ambulance is making most of the calls. The Ambulance Association has not done anything to improve the situation. No contract or service agreement with the Town of Dalton has been discussed. Gerry does not want the Fire Fighters to respond to ambulance calls.
- Cam stated that our ambulance isn't going out. County is here all of the time. He is afraid of a law suit because the ambulance is not responding to the calls. Chief said this lack of response has been going on for years. Cam would like to schedule a meeting with the Ambulance Association. He would like to see full time EMTs nights and weekends and in 2-3 years in paramedic status. Mike stated we need a structure of the operations first. Who will handle the per diem part? Who do they report to? Debbie asked what happens to the grant money if we stop using the grant. Gerry said that it would look bad to give it back. You would never get another grant. Al Nadeau expressed concerns about not answering the calls.

Water Department:

- See the attached sheet.
- #2. Mike wants Bob to contact Mr. and Mrs. Moynihan stating he is still collecting data.
- #8. The District will invoice DOT to get the Strap Grant money reimbursement.
- #11. The District will hire one employee at this point. After a while the department will be evaluated and discussed again. All Commissioners agreed.
- #13. The District will pay Bob for overtime rounds on the weekends until the new employee is put in place for rounds.
- #15. The water tank is right on schedule.
- #17. No action taken.

Treasurer's Report:

- Cheryl Cachat will begin working on August 1, 2016.
- Debbie signed her up for the Annual Treasurer/Collector's School at UMass Amherst.
- There are 8 empty houses that will have the water shut off.
- There are 18 houses for final shut off notices and to be sprayed.
- The District received a PILOT bill from the Town of Hinsdale in the amount of \$15,857.58. Each year before this the bill has been \$2,108.40. Debbie received a call from the town manager and they based the bill on the standard cost of living going back to 1965. Debbie will find out from the Department of Revenue on how to handle this.

Jim made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm, Cam seconded, all approved. The next meeting is August 30, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Brunelle, CMMT
Treasurer/Clerk