

MINUTES

KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING, KINGSTON FIRE STATION, KINGSTON, R.I. MAY 6, 2019

Call to Order: Moderator Valerie Maier-Sperdelozzi called the Kingston Fire District Annual Meeting of May 6, 2019 to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Kingston Fire Station, 35 Bills Road, Kingston, RI. She noted that seventeen (17) qualified electors were in attendance, as confirmed in the 2018 Tax Roll for the District that was located by the attached sign in sheet. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi declared that a quorum was present.

AGENDA (SEE HANDOUT)

MOTION: Ina Sciabarrasi moved to accept the Agenda as presented. Elizabeth McNab seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF 2018 (SEE HANDOUT)

MOTION: Tom Vignali moved to accept the Minutes as presented. Ina Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEFS' REPORT (SEE HANDOUT)

MOTION: Ina Sciabarrasi moved to accept the Chief's Report as presented. Sandy Koerner seconded the motion.

Chief Nathan Barrington gave a summary of his written report. Barrington told the taxpayers that it has been a quiet year in many respects with no major fires within the district and no significant injuries. He let the taxpayers know that KFD has seen a slow building of our volunteer core and that our incentive plans are creating unprecedented opportunities for our volunteers. He noted that KFD appointed a department physician this year and is starting the process of conducting NFPA compliant physicals. Barrington let the taxpayers know that KFD's District Solicitor, Donald Packer (also past KFD Warden) has retired and we are now seeking other attorneys to fill this role. He also let them know that Warden Donald Cobb stepped down from the role mid-year. He noted their dedication and many contributions to the District.

Barrington let the taxpayers know that KFD is in sound fiscal shape and that we anticipate a 4-6% surplus in the operating budget this year. He credited Deputy Chief Tom Reed and Maintenance Coordinator Will Summerly with staying on top of maintenance issues and being very proactive and good management of warranty issues. He noted that the Capital Project Fund will have a slightly larger percentage return this year due to KFD not addressing the second phase of the air conditioning upgrade project since the system is still working but requested to move the funds into the upcoming year. Barrington let the taxpayers know that we just completed another two-year agreement with the University of Rhode Island and that the relationship continues to be strong and mutually beneficial.

Barrington also let the taxpayers know that KFD plans to replace our portable radios over the next year and that we are looking to move from two-watt to five-watt radios which field testing showed should improve our capacity significantly. He noted that KFD plans to apply to the USDA for funding for this project and that it augments the Flagg Road repeater project they helped fund in the past. He also noted that we will be phasing out the bulk of our 800 MHz radios purchased in 2006 over the next couple of years (maintaining a small inventory for command staff) because replacing the current inventory is cost-prohibitive and operationally unnecessary. Lastly,

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Barrington thanked Training/Recruitment & Retention Coordinator, Erik Brierley, Office Manager, Jenifer Madison and KFD's Wardens and firefighters for their all their hard work and dedication.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT (SEE HANDOUT)

MOTION: Sandy Koerner moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Elizabeth McNab seconded the motion.

Treasurer Thomas Vignali presented the Treasurer's report. He gave a brief review of the report which included the District's cash balances, capital assets, long-term debt, fund balances and current grant awards. He let the taxpayers know that KFD paid of its building loan during FY2018-19 and he noted that KFD's fund balances were "well-capitalized."

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT (SEE HANDOUT)

MOTION: Bill Flatley moved to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented. Angelo Mendillo seconded the motion.

Tax Collector Linda Mendillo presented the Tax Collector's Report. The report was reviewed. Mendillo let the taxpayers know that the collection rate of 2018 is at 98.8%. She also let them know that there is one account which has not paid their fire district tax in over two years and which was put up for tax sale by the Town of South Kingstown; but that no one bought it so the Town is now in possession of it. She let the taxpayers know that there were some businesses that have unpaid tangible taxes for over two years as well.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MOTION: Mark Barabe moved to accept the President's Report as presented. Tom Vignali seconded the motion.

Acting President Ina Sciabarrasi presented the President's report. She informed the tax payers that KFD is in "good financial health." She let the taxpayers know that past President Donald Cobb resigned from the Board after serving many years and that both KFD's legal counsel, Donald Packer and URI's Vern Wyman retired. She thanked all three for their many contributions and years of service to the District and wished them well. She also acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Chief Nate Barrington, Deputy Chief Tom Reed, Treasurer Tom Vignali, Tax Collector Linda Mendillo and Office Manager Jenifer Madison. She thanked all of KFD's firefighters for their many many volunteer hours, thanked the board members and committee members and thanked the taxpayers for coming. Lastly, she noted that both the Kingston Fire Department and the KFD Board of Wardens have been actively recruiting new volunteers and that the efforts have been very successful and that KFD hopes to see these efforts continue over the next year.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi stated that according to last year's minutes there were no motions tabled or carried forward to attend to at this year's meeting.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there was any other official business under the category "Old Business". There was none.

FY2019-2010 BUDGET MOTION (SEE HANDOUT)

Nathan Barrington presented the Budget. The FY2019-2020 Budget was reviewed. Tom Vignali noted that the District has expended about 82% of its budget to date.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none.

MOTION: Elizabeth McNabb moved the following Budget Motion: "I move that the budget be approved as presented, and that the Board of Wardens be directed to calculate the tax rate, based on the valuation of assessed property according to the South Kingstown Tax Assessor's rolls as of December 31, 2018, so as to meet the amount of money specified in the budget to be raised by taxation, plus or minus five percent (5%), to account for authorized abatements and additions to the tax roll throughout the tax year." The motion was seconded by Tom Vignali. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Sandy Koerner moved the following Motion: "I move that any surplus funds from fiscal year 2018-19 be transferred into the Capital Projects Fund in a manner consistent with existing policy." The motion was seconded by Ted Jakubowski. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (SEE HANDOUT)

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the tax payers to review the Nominating Committee Report.

MOTION: Tom Vignali moved to accept the Nominating Committee Report, as presented. Ina Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. Ina Sciabarrasi introduced and presented Mark Barabe as nominated for the open Warden position and Kristen Cummiskey as nominated for an open Auditing Committee position and noted that they had been both been serving in the interim during the positions' vacancies. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. Ina Sciabarrasi moved to nominate Kristen Bovy to the Auditing Committee. Dorald Beasley seconded the motion. There were no further nominations from the floor.

ELECTION

MOTION: There being no further nominations or discussion, Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked for a vote to elect those individuals nominated in the Nominating Committee Report and from the floor. Tom Vignali moved and Elizabeth McNab seconded the motion to elect the individuals nominated. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS (SEE HANDOUT):

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors to refer to the Resolutions to be approved under “Other New Business”

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors to review the first resolution, *Resolution for Emergency Contingency Fund for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.*

MOTION: Bill Flatley moved to accept the Resolution for Emergency Contingency Fund for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, as presented. Tom Vignali seconded the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors to review the second resolution, *Resolution Transfer of Funds.*

MOTION: Ina Sciabarrasi moved to accept the Resolution Transfer of Funds, as presented. Bill Flatley seconded the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors if there was anything else to be heard under “Other New Business.” Dorald Beasley (Tax Assessor) responded that he had new business. He let the taxpayers know that he is reviewing the split properties between KFD and the Union Fire District (UFD) and possibly addressing a proposal to move all the Tefft Hill split properties into KFD. He noted that there are 40 split properties between KFD and UFD and he shared a map which showed the current district lines. Beasley also noted that if there were no split properties between the districts, there would be no need for a Tax Assessor and it could all be automated. Ted Jakubowski asked if the impact of the valuation had been computed; Beasley said not at this time. Donald Packer commented that he did not think that UFD would give up taxable property and Nate Barrington agreed that he thinks it would be a very difficult to reach agreement. Beasley noted that under his proposal, any new developed property would become taxable under UFD. There was some further discussion about how there would need to be changes made to KFD’s enabling legislation should the proposal be accepted. There were no further questions or discussion. There were no motions.

MOTION: Sandy Koerner moved to adjourn. Ina Sciabarrasi seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenifer Madison
Office Manager
Kingston Fire District (On behalf of Larry Fortin, District Clerk)