

Draft – Minutes

Kingston Fire District
Board of Wardens' Meeting
14 April 2022

Present: Wardens Bill Flatley, Sandra Koerner, Elizabeth McNab and Mark Barabe. Also present were Tax Collector Susan Axelrod, Treasurer Tom Vignali, URI Director of Public Safety & Chief of Police Michael Jagoda, Chief Tom Reed, and District Manager Jenifer Madison.

Absent: Deputy Chief Erik Brierley

Call to Order: Interim President Bill Flatley called the Board of Wardens Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Information/Comments/Questions from the Public: There were no comments from the public.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: McNab made and Koerner seconded a motion to accept the Minutes from the Wardens meeting on 3/24/22. The minutes were reviewed. Axelrod noted that under the Tax Collector's Report, 46 and not 64 delinquency notices were sent out and requested that the change be made. There were no further comments or questions.

The motion passed unanimously with the correction.

Motion: McNab made and Koerner seconded a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report.

Axelrod presented the Tax Collector's Report. The Board reviewed the report. Axelrod let the Board know that the 2021 tax roll collection rate is at 97.9%. She noted that the property owner who owed delinquent taxes for 2019, 2020 and 2021 made a payment and the payment cleared. She let the Board know that with this payment, KFD will not need to hold a tax sale this year. There was no further discussion or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

URI Report:

Motion: McNab made and Koerner seconded a motion to accept the URI report.

Jagoda presented the URI Report. The Board reviewed the report. There was no further discussion or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chief's Report:

Motion: McNab made and Barabe seconded a motion to accept the Chief's Report.

Reed presented the Chief's Report. Reed let the Board know that to date, KFD responded to a total of 195 total emergency responses this year and this past month has been quiet with 26 calls for service. He noted that there are no major maintenance issues or projects to report on and that there have been no major issues or repairs to our apparatus over the past month. Reed let the Board know that the station alerting system has been installed and is operational. He also noted that the electrical contractor has been scheduled for early May and the mechanical contractor for the end of April. Reed

also let the Board know that KFD and URI have been working together on the next contract renewal and that URI has agreed to a two percent increase as proposed and provided us with a one-year contract extension. He noted that URI Commencement planning is underway and that this year the events will be broken up over three days which should be a good way to alleviate some traffic issues on the URI campus and in Kingston Village. Reed also let the Board know that this past weekend, KFD hosted a one-day training for the Rhode Island Southern Firefighters League where 18 members from area departments trained on Firefighter Rescue and Rapid Intervention scenarios. There was no further discussion or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: Barabe made and Koerner seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Vignali presented the Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed the report. Vignali let the Board know how KFD's operating and capital projects budgets are trending and noted that overall, they are on track. There was no further discussion or questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee up-date/report: There were no updates.

Next Meetings:

- May 19, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
- August 18, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
- October 20, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Old Business:

- **Review of Open District Positions and Upcoming Elections:** Koerner let the Board know that there is one very interested candidate for the open Warden position who will be attending the Annual Meeting on 5/2/2022. She also noted that Wardens Flatley and Barabe, who are up for re-election, are both interested in continuing for another term. Flatley let the Wardens know he has been reaching out to the other KFD officers to find out their interest in filling their current positions for another term. Vignali asked if there were other Kingston residents interested in running for the Warden position; Flatley responded that he did not know of any at this time. There was no further discussion or questions.
- **Update on KFD's Articles of Incorporation:** Barabe let the Board know that there is no update. There was no further discussion or questions.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Covid-19 Response and Recovery Funding:** Reed let the Board know that the distribution plan for the Town of South Kingstown's ARPA funds is in a holding pattern with the new Town Manager and the consultant. There was no further discussion or questions.
- **Radio System Project Update:** Reed let the Board know that we are still waiting for next steps. He noted that there has been a request by both KFD and Union Fire District to encumber their cost share of the project during this fiscal year. He also let the Board know that the fire districts may not have to pay at all because there is a discussion

underway to have the funding for the radio system project come out of the town's APRA funds. There was no further discussion or questions.

Communications: There was none. No motions were made.

Information:

- KFD Annual Meeting -- Monday, 5/2/2022
- KVFC Chicken BBQ -- Saturday 6/4/2022, 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM @ KFD station

Future Planning: There were no updates.

Next Meetings:

- May 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the KFD Station – Annual Meeting
- May 26, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the KFD Station – Monthly Wardens Meeting
- June 23, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the KFD Station – Monthly Wardens Meeting
- July 28, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the KFD Station – Monthly Wardens Meeting
- August 25, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the KFD Station – Monthly Wardens Meeting
- September 22, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the KFD Station – Monthly Wardens Meeting
- October 27, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the KFD Station – Monthly Wardens Meeting
- December 01, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the KFD Station – Monthly Wardens Meeting

Adjournment:

Motion: Koerner made and Barabe seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenifer Madison
District Manager