

## **Spofford Fire & Rescue Precinct Commissioners' Meeting Minutes January 25, 2024 – Spofford Fire Station**

Present: Evan James Deutsch, Commissioner Chair; John Forester, Commissioner; Rob Hodgkins, Commissioner; Brendan Kiniry, Fire Chief; Elaine Croteau, Treasurer; Fran Shippee, Selectmen's Representative and Jay Gaudry, Clerk

### **Call to Order**

Evan James Deutsch called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

### **Visitors**

Tammy Bischof

Bill Vermouth

Tom Dwyer

David Jordan

### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the December 11, 2023 Commissioners' meeting were distributed via email and hard copies were available at the meeting.

***Evan James Deutsch moved to approve the December 11, 2023 Commissioners' meeting minutes as presented, seconded by John Forester. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.***

### **Bills and Correspondence**

Bills and invoices were distributed for the signatures of the Commissioners.

### **Chief's Report**

Brendan Kiniry is looking at replacing a fire vehicle. Tom Dwyer said there are discussions and consideration for the possibility of \$250,000 to be put down on the lease for the Tanker. We have enough equity where the leasing company said we can buy outright the remaining payment so they could release Engine 2 to us and we could probably get \$160,000 if we sold the vehicle. The Engine is

overloaded with equipment for what it's being used for currently and there is a smaller vehicle that could be used for the types of calls that would be beneficial. The Chief is looking to get out of the Engine 2 lease early with payment flexibility. There was a large donation made to the Spofford Fire Association with a matching donation offer that will need to be collected; which we would use to pay off Engine 2 and then trade it toward a smaller vehicle. The Commissioners agreed to enter the exploratory phase for the Chief and Assistant Chief to look into the costs and replacement vehicles.

Brendan Kiniry said the firefighter classes are smaller this time and we have Spofford members enrolled in the classes.

Chief Kiniry has been looking at warranty work to be done on the fire trucks and making arrangements to have it done in the near future. He will be purchasing PPE gear for some new turnout gear for the newest members.

***Evan James Deutsch moved to expend up to \$17,000 from the PPE fund already established, seconded by John Forester. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.***

Brendan Kiniry suggested a property tax deduction for active firefighters and Fran Shippee will look into the tax credit for property taxes to see what is available.

#### Old Business

Jay Gaudry confirmed the District Meeting date of Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

#### Building Maintenance/Use

John Forester gave an update on the building maintenance and said the large copier is broken. He will look into repairs or a replacement copier and something that is smaller.

Discussion ensued on the annual servicing on the generator by Powers Generator.

Bill Vermouth expressed gratitude to Brendan Kiniry and Tom Dwyer for their work on the Capital Maintenance Plan items and costs; as well as their efforts to compile the vehicle information for our insurance coverages. He also reminded the commissioners that the insurance compensation is based on the schedule instead of replacement and he suggested reviewing the insurance coverage for current equipment.

#### Treasurer's Report

Elaine Croteau resigned as Treasurer effective January 25, 2024.

#### Chairman's Report

The Chairman and Commissioners thanked Elaine Croteau for her hard work and service and appreciated all her efforts, along with Bill Vermouth's efforts to help with the transition while the new Treasurer is getting acclimated.

***Evan Deutsch welcomed Tammy Bischof and moved to appoint Tammy Bischof as the Treasurer until the March 19, 2024 District Meeting, seconded by John Forester. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.***

It will be necessary to notify M&T Bank regarding the new Treasurer and a new signature card will need to be filed with Lisa Rancourt for authorized signers to include Tammy Bischof and Evan James Deutsch. The Clerk will prepare a letter for Evan James Deutsch to sign and mail to M&T Bank and will include the approved January 25, 2024 minutes.

Evan James Deutsch said he will reach out to David Gray for the continuation of payroll services for 2024.

#### New Business

None

#### Other

Discussion ensued regarding the Warrant and Budget information in case any questions arise from the public hearing.

Selectmen's Representative

Fran Shippee will look into the firefighter tax credit options and availability.

Clerk

Jay Gaudry will provide copies of the Warrant and Budget for the Budget Committee Public Hearing on Saturday, January 27.

Future meeting schedule:

January 27, 2024 – Budget Committee Public Hearing

February 15, 2024

March 19, 2024 – Annual Spofford Fire District Meeting @ 7 PM

March 21, 2024

April 18, 2024

May 16, 2024

June 20, 2024

July 18, 2024

August 15, 2024

September 19, 2024

October 17, 2024

November 21, 2024

December 19, 2024

Executive Session

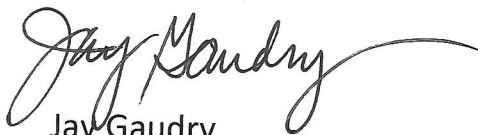
None

Adjournment

***Evan James Deutsch moved to adjourn at 7:03 pm, seconded by John Forester.***

***All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.***

Submitted by,



Jay Gaudry

Clerk

Approved 2/15/24