

September 20, 2018

The Board of Commissioners of the North River Fire District met in regular session on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 6:00 P.M. in the Resource Center of Station Two.

Present:	Paul Pitcher	Chairman
	Robert Bell	Vice-Chairman
	Amy Willis	Commissioner
	Scott Smith	Commissioner
	James Alderman	Commissioner
	Harry L. Blenker	Commissioner

Absent:	Michael Browning	Commissioner
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Also Present:	Michael S. Rampino, Fire Chief
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Chairman Pitcher inquired if there was any public wishing to make comment; as no public was present or wishing to comment, Chairman Pitcher proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting on August 16, 2018 were approved on motion by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Chairman Pitcher opened the Public Hearing to hear appeals on fire assessments. As there was no public present for the appeal process, the Public Hearing was closed. Resolution 2018-05 regarding Fire Assessment Appeals was before the Commission for approval. Commissioner Bell motioned to approve **Resolution No. 2018-05** indicating no appellants of fire assessments, seconded by Commissioner Alderman and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Chief Rampino advised Commissioners that the Collective Bargaining Agreement was before them for their approval. This is the openers, agreed to be discussed annually for the 2017-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Chief reviewed each of the Articles that had been updated for Commissioners, answering questions that Commission members had. Commissioner Blenker motioned to approve the updated 2017-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Chief Rampino presented to the Board a possible option to re-finance the loan for stations 2 and 5. Chief indicated that the district had ten years left on the current loan and discussed re-financing at a lower rate for ten years. This savings would be \$39,900 in interest but closing cost would approximately run \$6,100 for a total savings of \$33,800 over ten years. This was discussed with the district's auditor and he explained that if this is something the district wanted to do they would save more money by making additional premium payments and paying the loan off as soon as two to three years. The administration will bring back to the commission payoff options without re-financing the loan. An open discussion took place with the commissioners and the consensus is not to re-finance and look at other options.

Chief Rampino presented the financial report for the month ending August 2018. Chief Rampino indicated that the District's expenses were in order and the district was decreasing its spending due to the end of the fiscal year approaching. Chief indicated that over the next four to six months he is recommending that the district hires an economist to conduct a study re: the fire assessment rates. This was recommended by

the attorney to do prior to taking the district's special act to legislation for any changes. A motion was made by Commissioner Alderman to approve the August 2018 financial report, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Administrative Report: Chief Rampino shared with the Board that the district's new fire engine was ordered and should be completed by April 12, 2019. Also, that Battalion Chief Cluley is planning to retire February 1, 2019.

Commissioner Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Alderman and carried by a vote of 6-0.

PAUL J. PITCHER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

MICHAEL BROWNING, SECRETARY