



WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT
1110 Victory Highway, Greene, Rhode Island 02827
Phone (401) 397-7520, Fax (401) 397-1084, www.wcfd.net
Board of Directors Meeting September 19, 2024 7:00 P.M

OFFICIAL MINUTES

(Agenda Posted September 17, 2024)
Minutes Posted October 13, 2024

Members Present

Chief Cady

Steve Bousquet, Chairman

Russ Lacaillade

Joe Gigliotti

Bob Mann

Jillian Winemiller

Peter Fratantuono

Richard Holt

Elizabeth McDonald

Skip Mays (Moderator)

Mariann Gardener (Clerk)

Sandy Mann

Annie Driscoll (tax collector)

1. Call to Order and Attendance.

Mr. Bousquet called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. Emergency evacuation procedure announcement.

Mr. Bousquet announced the emergency evacuation procedure

3. Confirmation of required meeting posting and quorum.

Mr. Bousquet confirmed the meeting was posted in all locations and that a quorum was present.

4. Tax Collector's Report to include: *

- *Tax collection activity for the past month August 2024.*
- *Approval of the Tax Collector's Report. **
- *Approval of the 2024-2025 tax rate.**

A motion was made by Mr. Winemiller and second by Ms. McDonald to accept the August 2024 Tax Collector's report.

All in Favor. All voted Aye

Steve Bousquet	Aye
Jillian Winemiller	Aye
Joe Gigliotti	Aye
Richard Holt	Aye
Elizabeth McDonald	Aye

A motion is made by Steve Bousquet and second by Mr. Gigliotti to accept the 2024-2025 tax rate of \$1.65.

All in Favor. All voted Aye

Steve Bousquet	Aye
Jillian Winemiller	Aye
Joe Gigliotti	Aye
Richard Holt	Aye
Elizabeth McDonald	Aye

5. *Acceptance of the August 15, 2024 meeting minutes. **

A motion is made by Ms. Winemiller and second by Mr. Holt to accept the August 15, 2024 minutes as amended.

All in Favor. All voted Aye

Steve Bousquet	Aye
Jillian Winemiller	Aye
Joe Gigliotti	Aye
Richard Holt	Aye

Elizabeth McDonald Aye

6. Chief's Report to include: *

- ***Department's operational and administrative activity for the past months of July and August, 2024.***
- ***Chief's Comments and department notes.***

Chief Cady presented the July and August 2024 Chief's reports.

A motion is made by Mr. Holt and second by Ms. Winemiller to accept the July 2024 and the August 2024 Chief's Report.

All in Favor. All voted Aye

Steve Bousquet	Aye
Jillian Winemiller	Aye
Joe Gigliotti	Aye
Richard Holt	Aye
Elizabeth McDonald	Aye

7. Treasurer's Report to include: *

- ***The district's financial accounting activity for the months of August 2024.****
- ***Approval of the Treasurer's Report.***

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report.

Rescue recovery revenue is up compared with the same time last year. Expenses for truck repair, fuel, legal/professional, and OT for Full Time and Duty Crew are up.

The Treasurer will contact Coronis for updates.

A motion was made by Ms. Winemiller and second by Ms. McDonald to accept the August 2024 Treasurer's report.

All in Favor. All voted Aye

Steve Bousquet	Aye
Jillian Winemiller	Aye
Joe Gigliotti	Aye
Richard Holt	Aye
Elizabeth McDonald	Aye

8. Tax Collector's Report to include: *

- *Tax collection activity for the past month August 2024.*
- *Approval of the Tax Collector's Report. **

This item is a repeat of item 4 noted above.

Therefore, delete item 8.

9. Clerk's Comments.

Nothing new to report.

10. 2023-2024 Audit Review. *

The BOD reviewed the Auditors Report. A motion is made by Ms. McDonald and second by Ms. Winemiller to approve the 2023-2024 auditor findings as written.

All in Favor. All voted Aye

Steve Bousquet	Aye
Jillian Winemiller	Aye
Joe Gigliotti	Aye
Richard Holt	Aye
Elizabeth McDonald	Aye

11. Staffing update and plan. *

The Chief reported that 3 of 5 full time positions are filled.

An internal candidate is interested in the position but has not yet filled an application. The BOD would like to move forward and have the position advertised externally. The positions need to be filled with qualified candidates. It was recommended to place ad in the Fire Fighter app.

12. Rescue 8 status and repair discussion.

Rescue 8 is back in service. The repairs to the turbo cost over \$17,000. The plan is to keep old rescue 8 in service at least until the new rescue is completely outfitted and in service.

13. New Rescue Status

Captain Mann reported that the new rescue is at Greenwood waiting for graphics. Finance options were discussed including a lease option, a line of credit, and a tax anticipation loan. Steve will look into these options and report to the BOD at the next meeting.

14. Discussion on new Mortgage rate effective November 2024

Mr. Bousquet presented the projected new mortgage rate to go in effect on November 9th. The rate is projected to be 6.5% per the terms of the original mortgage agreement with Centreville Bank. He approached the bank with the possibility of having the rate reviewed for an adjustment in the future. It didn't appear the bank was negotiable, but he will continue

working on this. The option of moving all the WCFD bank business to another bank including the mortgage is being considered.

15. Discussion of Coventry Town Council Resolution 2024-66, including possible appointing a representative and the formation of an action committee. *

The Coventry Town Council Resolution 2024-66 was discussed.

A motion is made by Mr. Holt and second by Mr. Bousquet to appoint Jillian Winemiller as the WCFD representative to the Town Committee.

All in Favor. All voted Aye

Steve Bousquet Aye

Jillian Winemiller Aye

Joe Gigliotti Aye

Richard Holt Aye

Elizabeth McDonald Aye

An internal Action Committee will also be considered by WCFD. Two board members and several tax payers have expressed interest.

16. Update on the floor Motion from Bob Hevey at the 2024 annual taxpayer meeting regarding the study group.

Mr. Bousquet recommends that this committee wait for pending feedback and what direction the Town Action group plans for municipal department vs district merger.

17. Discussion and update of Chief of WCFD search Committee. *

Mr. Mays reported that the committee has had two Chief interview sessions and interviewed 5 well-qualified candidates. The Committee has a meeting scheduled on September 23, 2024 to process all the candidate information. The committee will be ready to present their Candidate recommendations and compensation proposal to the BOD after this meeting. An October 3, meeting is scheduled with the BOD.

18. Discussion on Member Scheduling.

Ms. Winemiller presented a 24 hour 4 platoon schedule for the department to help with the cost of OT Scheduling. Chief Cady deferred discussion and consideration of this scheduling option to the new Chief.

19. Discussion on Miranda Hennessey v. WCFD Worker's Comp Case #202405616.

A letter from an attorney was received by Mr. Bousquet involving a worker's compensation case noted as Miranda Hennessey v. WCFD Worker's Comp.

Mr. Bousquet will discuss with Attorney Harsch. A pre-trial conference is scheduled for next week.

20. Open Forum.

The Chief had a few survey related Medicaid Survey Questions for Mr. Bousquet and Ms. Mann.

21. Schedule next BOD meeting.

The next BOD meeting is scheduled for October 3 at 7 pm to discuss the Chief Committee recommendations.

The next regularly scheduled BOD meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024 at 7 pm.

22. Adjournment. *

A motion is made by Ms. Winemiller and second by Ms. McDonald to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 pm.

All in Favor. All voted Aye	
Steve Bousquet	Aye
Joe Gigliotti	Aye
Jillian Winemiller	Aye
Richard Holt	Aye
Elizabeth McDonald	Aye

*Votes may be taken

Board of Directors

Stephen Bousquet, Richard Holt, Joe Gigliotti, Jillian Winemiller, Elizabeth McDonald

District Officers

WCS Mays III – Moderator, Annie Driscoll– Tax Collector
Sandra Mann -Treasurer, Mariann Gardener – Clerk

Chief

James Cady

2024 Regularly Scheduled Meetings

18 Jan, 15 Feb, 21 Mar, 18 Apr, 16 May, 20 Jun,
18 Jul, 15 Aug, 19 Sep, 17 Oct, 21 Nov, 19 Dec