

# Dartmouth Fire District 2 Minutes

March 4, 2024 At District Fire Station

Start at 19:10

Board members present: Paul Abranties, John Sousa, Ralph Medeiros, and members of the Fire District.

1/ Vendor Warrant, motion to approve was made by John, second by Ralph vote: unanimous.

2/ Payroll Warrant, motion to approve was made by John second by Ralph and approved, the vote was unanimous

3/ Approval of Meeting Minutes for Jan and Feb, a discussion ensued after John complained about meeting minutes not being timely. After much conversation and being informed that minutes can be turned in up to 90 days from the meeting date a vote was taken. Ralph made a motion to approve Jan minutes Paul second. The motion passed with John being in opposition of approving minutes being more than 30 days old [modified 4/8/24].

A motion was made to approve Feb minutes by Ralph second by Paul the vote was unanimous.

4/ Discussion on by law committee progress. Greg the chairman informed the committee of it's progress to date and that it was meeting weekly to date. A motion was made to accept Gregs report by Ralph second by John, the vote was unanimous.

5/ Chief's Feb report on calls, mutual aid and fire department training. purchased new radio equipment and software to program radios in house. Work in progress on FD updating employee handbook. Department operating guidelines have been revised and passed out. Contacted Mass-Hire on an internship program. A motion to accept was made by Paul second by John, the vote was unanimous.

6/ Treasures report was made by Cheryl. Updated on health insurance cost, plan renews in April. New plan has a higher deductible but a much lower rate for both the employee and the FD. Motion was made to approve the report by John second by Ralph, the vote was unanimous.

7/ A long Discussion on the Stabilization Fund ensued with John questioning past procedures and methods. The Fire Dept currently has approximately \$643,000 in reserves [savings] earning 4.75% built up from past Prudential Committee[s] management. A motion was made to increase the Stabilization Fund to \$100k by Paul second by John. A discussion took place with Ralph urging caution with such a large increase and the effect it would have on the tax rate. The motion was amended to increase the Stabilization fund to \$60k, the motion passed unanimous. A motion was made by Ralph to increase the Clerks salary by \$1000 [from \$2500 to \$3500] based on the fact that the position has not had an increase in approximately 10 years. On the

vote Ralph and Paul were in favor John was opposed because no performance appraisal review was done, the motion passed.

8/ Discussion on the Warrant and on where to hold the annual meeting. A motion was made by Ralph to hold the meeting at \*Dartmouth high school second by Paul, the vote was unanimous. All the Articles on the Warrant were voted on and approved [with John being opposed to artical 3 see #7]

9/ Public comment/discussion

10/ next meeting, April 8, 2024.

\*Annual Meeting will be held at the Fire Station because of a conflict in schedules with the High School.

\*\* March 11, 2024 the signing of the Warrant as well as the special Warrant, a motion to approve was made by Paul second by John, the motion passed unanimous

Prepared by: Ralph Medeiros