

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2000
Earleigh Heights , Maryland

The Executive Committee Special Meeting was held at the Earleigh Heights VFC. The meeting was called to order by President Roger A. Steger, Sr. at 1930 hours for the purpose of discussing the Board of Review application from the Eldorado-Brookview VFD. The President ask Jason Baer to lead the group in an opening prayer, and President Steger led the Pledge to the Flag. President Steger thanked Earleigh Heights VFC for the use of their building, and Anne Arundel County Ladies Auxiliary for the refreshments. The President turned the meeting over to Executive Committee Chair Hales.

Chair Stephen Hales started the meeting by calling V. Chair Jason Baer and the members of the Board of Review to the front table to talk with the Executive Committee about application No. 01-03. Chair Hales said that at the August meeting, this Board agreed to discuss this at our next meeting, but due to the element of time, a special meeting was needed. J. Baer said that Chair Doc Moltrup was not able to attend this meeting, and had faxed a report which J. Baer read regarding the application by Eldorado-Brookview VFD for \$130,000 to purchase a pumper-tanker (originally a Tanker). He discussed the problems with their present tanker and the repairs needed to bring it back up to proper condition. He discussed the bids they received (Pierce and Four Guys) for the new apparatus. The Board of Review agreed to the Pierce bid. Based on the review of the Departments financial status, the Board of Review did approve a \$117,181 grant. They were also asked to include a 990 Form. He said the company had just received word that the department just achieved their 501C3 IRS status, and their CPA advised them not to file a Form 990 for 1999, but wait to file their first one for 2000. He elaborated on the bids for their apparatus. The bid from Four Guys was for a body, only. The chassis spec was not met by the other two company's. Pierce did meet the spec for a chassis. He said his recommendations for this Board, are the one's they ok, first. He said they did reject two other applications, which are not brought to this Board at all. He said what they send on to the State are the ones that they recommend and are approved by this Board.

He discussed their financial statement, saying they had some items listed under the wrong titles, etc. They noticed, they had been operating under a deficit in the fire company, which indicated the EMS was subsidizing the fire company, and this was true. They asked them to reform this to show they were not operating in a deficit. They did do this, thus showing a balanced budget. They did get a commitment for the \$5,000 requirement in the Board of Review package, and their own commitment of \$55,000 (in a CD).

S. Hales asked if the \$55,000 was the same money used to assure collateral for a loan? J. Baer did not know the answer to this. They discussed the cash on hand and what that really is. L. Sachs asked about the taxes mentioned in the report, and whether that is their income tax before they received their tax exempt status. L. Sachs said if the \$35,000 is in taxes, then with their next exempt status, that will now be extra funds available?

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Art Spencer (AA County) said the application being approved by the Board of Review was not to be submitted to the Executive Committee until all information was obtained. D. Carpenter (Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's) concurred with this statement.

They discussed the distribution of the report package and it not being received by the Executive Committee until the day of their meeting. They discussed the procedures about who they give their report to. L. King pointed out to the Board of review that the By-Laws say you set up your policies and procedures, and bring any proposed changes to the Executive Committee for approval. The changes they made should have been brought to the Executive Committee for approval first. Apparently only some of the Board received a packet from the Board of review. The present policy should not have been changed without the Executive Committee's approval. L. King said if they cannot send a copy to everyone, then just send him one copy and he will send it to the rest of the people. Bill Cooper discussed the package sent to the Board and only the 2nd package being received.

They received word from the Eldorado-Brookview VFD Treasurer, that the taxes previously asked about were payroll taxes. It was questioned that with a payroll of \$65,000, how could the taxes be \$35,000? L. Sachs discussed what this Board is trying to do with the questions being asked about the application and financial records, etc. They are just asking questions to justify the application. He said he still needs to know more about the taxes, for example before he could vote on the application.

Personal Pagers asked about by Chair S. Hales as an income. Also it was noted they only have one CD.

L. Sachs said the taxes noted are the payroll taxes and the withholding taxes are combined to be called just taxes in their financial statement. He discussed the paid members and their costs and the taxes. He said that due to their not filing tax returns, they cannot meet the requirement of supplying a Form 990. He said he is now satisfied with the answers to the question of the Taxes.

Discussion was held on the need for the 990 Form or not. Danny Carpenter asked about the CD and how it is to be used. L. Sachs again questioned the money on hand by the Company, and that it is there, maybe not stated correctly, but it is there. He questioned if we are granting more money than they may actually need?

The following motion was made by P. Sterling and seconded by C. Jewell:

MOTION: That the Executive Committee concur with the recommendation made by the Board of Review to approve the application request No. 01-03 for a \$117,181. Grant for a tanker for the Eldorado-Brookview VFD. Motion approved – 6 yea and 2 nea, with 3 abstaining.

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The meeting was turned back to President Steger who ask the Secretary to read a letter from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in reference to sale of the property considered for purchase by this Association, known as the Water Witch Firehouse. It gave confirmation that the firefighters have no desire to make an offer on the building. All offers are to be submitted no later than September 29th. President Steger discussed his recent meeting with the Governor and conversation about the property and maybe utilization of office space in the building. The Governor said a Day Care Center is being considered for part of the building. L. Sachs said we cannot vote on anything today, we just need to pursue our interest in the property.

President Steger thanked those who attended the meeting. There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of the Secretary
Leonard T. King, Sr., P.P.
J. Edward Cross
Joseph A. Cooper