

# TOWN OF HARRISBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 16, 2018

6:00 P.M. At Harrisburg Administration Building

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm by Chairman Robin Torrence

**Present:** Robin Torrence, Graydon Choinski, Bill Kennedy, Kenny Long

**Absent:** Chief Bryan Dunn, Deputy Chief Bradey, Battalion Chief Tim Wooten

**Public attendance:** None

**Town Officials:** None

**1.0 Invocation:** Kenny Long

**2.0 Public comment:** None

**3.0 Agenda changes and approval:** Kenny Long made a motion to accept agenda, seconded by Bill Kennedy and passed.

**4.0 Review of the consent agenda:** Graydon Choinski made a motion to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Kenny Long and passed.

**5.0 Old Business:**

- A. Personnel update:** HFD has no open fire fighter positions. In July, the department filled four vacancies, one from a resignation and three new positions created in the Town's FY2018-19 Budget. The three new positions were recommend in the Town Managers budget to help the department deal with staffing shortages created by "Kelly Days" and supports the department's apparatus staffing goal. The four new fire fighters (Travis Puckett, Cody Powell, Alan Janove and Eli Stokes) started the Fire Academy in Concord in July. The four are expected to graduate and be assigned to a station/company by the end of the year.
- B. Station 2 update:** Construction of the new Fire Station 2 continues and is currently on schedule. The structural steel is in place and walls are being constructed. The schedule has the building being "dried in" before winter to avoid winter weather related delays. An occupancy date is still estimated to be April of 2019.
- C. Bridge Naming:** The NC Dept. of Transportation, working with Town officials and local legislators has agreed to rename the Pharr Mill Road bridge over Highway 49 in honor of Josh Earley. Josh Earley was a HFD firefighter who died in the line of duty in 2002. Plans are underway for a naming ceremony, with a date to be determined.

**6.0 New Business:**

**A. Advisory Board Appointments:**

- 1. With the terms for two members (from the incorporated town area) expiring in July, the Fire Advisory Board vacancies were posted on the Town website in April. As of the initially listed closing date, only one application had been received from current Board member Robin Torrence. The other expiring member, (Gary Williams) decided not to reapply. As a result, the Town reopened and advertised the vacancies and a total of four applications were submitted.
- 2. Of the four application received (Robin Torrence, Matthew Stiene, Scott Crew and Barry Lefler) only three resided in the incorporated area of the town. The fourth

applicant (Stiene), resides in the unincorporated area of the District. Since both vacancies were for persons living within the incorporated town area, Stiene's application was not considered.

3. After a review of the applicants and their qualifications, Bill Kennedy made a motion that the Board recommend the Town reappoint Robin Torrence and appoint Barry Lefler to the Fire Advisory Board. That motion was seconded by Kenny Long and passed.

**B. Advisory Board Resignation:** After reviewing all the applications that had been submitted for the Advisory Board vacancies, the board again discussed the application of Matthew Stiene. Because he resides outside the corporate limits of the Town, Steine was not eligible, however Kenny Long pointed out that Stiene was exceptionally well qualified and believed he would be an asset to the Board. With the two Board positions for persons from the un-incorporated area not expiring until next July, there are no available seats, absent a resignation. Kenny Long stated again that he strongly believe Stiene would be a great asset to the Board that he would be willing to resign from the Board, creating a vacancy. That resignation would be conditional on Stiene being appointed to the vacancy. The recommendation, that Steine be appointed to the vacancy created by Long's resignation, was then put in the form of motion by Kenny Long, seconded by Bill Kennedy and passed.

**7.0 Setting of next meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the HFD Administration Building.

**8.0 Adjournment:** Graydon Choinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kenny Long and passed.

**Members:**

**Inside corporate limits:**

Robin Torrence - Chairman  
Bill Kennedy - Secretary  
Vacant

**Outside corporate limits:**

Graydon Choinski  
Kenny Long  
Ex-Officio member: Tim Wooten