

OPEN LETTER TO CRICKET FIRE DISTRICT TAXPAYERS

May 27, 2015

Dear Taxpayer,

The Annual Meeting of **Cricket Volunteer Fire Department, Incorporated** is scheduled for **Tuesday June 2, 2015, 7:30 pm** at the Cricket Fire Department.

As a property owner/taxpayer within the Cricket Fire Department district, you are considered a member of the nonprofit corporation and are entitled and encouraged to voice your concerns and to vote during the annual election of Officers and Directors for the corporation.

It has come to the attention of many in the Cricket Fire District that financial records of this non-profit corporation are not being made available to members as required by Article 55A-16-02(b)(2) and Article 55A-16-20 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

1. The 2014 Annual Meeting was held on June 3, 2014, at the station. The latest financial statement for the Fire Department was not presented to the membership as is customary for nonprofit organizations during an annual meeting. Three days after the meeting on June 6, 2014, a written request was presented to the Board President requesting a copy of the financials of the Department. As of this date, the annual financial statement has not been provided.
2. The current board has plans to construct a new Fire Station at the existing location that may or may not be in the best interest and welfare of Cricket taxpayers, depending on costs and existing financial obligations that have the potential to increase the current fire tax assessment.
3. The absence of transparency by this board in failing to answer basic operational questions has led many to believe they have something to hide. Let us hope that is not the case; however, the community should be concerned with the management of their money.
4. Presently, if you have a concern or question for the Board of Directors, their policy is that you present the question or concern in writing to the President of the Board by the 1st Tuesday of the month. At the Board meeting on the following 3rd Thursday of the month, your concern will be addressed, and you may or may not be allowed to speak to the issue at the meeting.
5. Have response times to fire and first responder calls increased under the current leadership?

It is our belief as members of Cricket Volunteer Fire Department, Incorporated that our community is better served when all citizens can ask questions in the light of day and expect a response in a timely manner. The Fire Department is a vital community asset that belongs to all of us, and, as such, it is the responsibility of us all to see that it is operated in everyone's best interest.

As taxpayers and voting members of the Cricket Volunteer Fire Department Corporation, we encourage you to seek out the facts and plan to attend the Annual Meeting on June 2, 7:30 pm.

All corporation offices, two members of the Board of Directors, and the Fire Chief will be up for election at this meeting. Your vote as to the future direction of the Department is important.

Additional questions regarding this open letter can be addressed to:
ConcernforCricket@gmail.com.

YOUR FIRE TAXES!

YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT!

YOUR DECISION!

YOUR VOTE!

Sincerely,

The Concern for Cricket Committee