



WEARE BOARD OF FIRE WARDS
MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2023

PRESENT: WAYNE MEATTEY- VICE CHAIR, DAVID HEWEY SR.-MEMBER, LOUISA ERF-MEMBER, KILLIAN DONNELLY - NON-MEMBER, CHRISTOPHER OLSEN-INTERIM FIRE CHIEF, MARK ROARICK-ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, LEAH CUSHMAN- NON-MEMBER.

ABSENT: STEVE ROBERTS- CHAIRMAN

Vice Chair Meattey called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Old Business Personnel: Interim Chief Olsen said that everyone is in classes and they are doing well.

Old Business Apparatus: Interim Chief Olsen said that Ambulance One was back in service after a long break and was serviced for a check engine light that has been fixed. All the apparatuses are back in service.

Old Business Fire Station: Interim Chief Olsen said South Station was cleaned up with the help of K & R Disposal. Interim Chief Olsen said that the IT had handled the computer at South Station. The air compressor had an air test completed and the certification is forthcoming. Central Station has cabinets for all the hazardous materials.

Old Business Storage Units: Donnelly said that about six or eight months ago they were talking about a storage unit on 77 next to 77 motors and they were supposed to come back to the Board with a revised plan because their original design looked difficult for fire trucks to make the turns around the units. Interim Chief Olsen said he does have plans but they have not contacted him on the plans yet and will look at the units and get back to the Board.

New Business Personnel: Interim Chief Olsen said that Ian has left the department to work full-time at Auburn. Interim Chief Olsen said personnel have been working hard on their coursework for their training. Interim Chief Olsen said there will be an individual on Military leave from October 2023 to October 2024. Once he gets a copy of the orders, he will send them to the Board.

New Business Apparatus: A2 is at DPW with DPW Director Fiske due to a check engine light. Interim Chief Olsen said DPW Director Fiske is doing a great job with the vehicles. Interim Chief Olsen said the vehicles have been inspected and that Lieutenant Meattey had a great preventative maintenance program going.

New Business Fire Stations: South Station was cleaned out and there is a list of all the items to go to White Farm. Once they compile the list for East and Central stations, they will give the Board the list. The inventory is completed for South Station, half is completed for Central Station, and they have not started inventory for East Station. Donnel asked the money received from White Farm go to the general fund. Interim Chief Olsen said it does.

47 **New Business Activities:** Interim Chief Olsen and Assistant Chief Roarick have put together a pinning
48 ceremony and have sent it to the Board of Fire Wards and the Board of Selectmen. He also sent it to the
49 newspaper and they took pictures. There will be an open house on October 11th Assistant Chief Roarick
50 and Noah Brent are working hard on the event. The open house will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and there
51 will be a smoke trailer, sprinkler trailer, 911, and the Fire Marshall's Office attending. There will also be
52 food available. Interim Chief Olsen said there was a fire prevention drill that Assistant Chief Roarick did
53 with the local bus company and the Lieutenant was there too. The drill was on fire extinguishers and
54 seatbelt removal and went well. Fire Fighter Noah Brent has been getting ready for fire prevention week
55 in October. He is getting ready for the schools to come into the firehouse and they go through fire
56 prevention activities.

57
58 **Meeting Minutes:** Hewey motioned to approve the August 29th meeting minutes. Seconded by Interim
59 Chief Olsen. Motion passes 6-0-0.

60
61 Motion made by Interim Chief Olsen to approve the August 15th meeting minutes. Seconded by Hewey.
62 Motion passes 6-0-0.

63
64 **Manifest:** Donnelly motioned to accept the Fire Department accounts payable manifest checks dated
65 September 21, 2023, in the amount of \$3,546.57. Seconded by Cushman. Motion passes 6-0-0.

66
67 **Chief's Report:** Interim Chief Olsen said the fuel usage is \$2,935.80 for the Fire Department. Interim
68 Chief Olsen said that the department is trying to come up with logos and certificates to give out to classes.
69 They would be certificates for training hours. Interim Chief Olsen said they are looking for per diem staff
70 members. EMTs at \$26/hr. and paramedics at \$28/hr. It is preferred that they have their CDL with
71 Firefighters One and Two completed. Interim Chief Olsen asked if the Board would entertain having
72 physicals done each year for the Firefighters, EMTs, and Paramedics. Donnel asked if this would go to call
73 members. Interim Chief Olsen said yes. The new budget does reflect this as well as the call department.
74 Interim Chief Olsen said he is bringing it to their attention so the Board knows how much it costs to do a
75 physical for NFPA and its Fire Protection Agency. It is a national standard and they try to follow it the best
76 they can. Cushman asked if this would be done by a specific entity or if is this something they need to go
77 to their primary care. Assistant Chief Roarick said there is a place in Concord where most of the
78 municipalities send people for physicals and immunizations. They are familiar with Firefighter physicals.
79 It also includes cancer screenings as well. Cushman suggested getting the TB blood draws rather than the
80 injections.

81
82 Interim Chief Olsen said there was a total of twelve calls and fifty EMS with a total of sixty -two calls.
83 There were motor vehicle accidents, gas leaks, propane leaks, and some open fires. Interim Chief Olsen
84 went over the general activities revenues. Interim Chief Olsen said he has not met with the BOS yet about
85 the purchase of air packs and he hopefully will speak with them by the end of the month. Interim Chief
86 Olsen went over the service records and will send an electronic version to the Board. Interim Chief Olsen
87 went over the Firefighter performance appraisal. He did get the self-assessment out to the firefighters and
88 the Chief will do the performance appraisal and they will sit down and compare. Interim Chief Olsen said
89 six line items are over the line item. They are concerned about the budget and they do have a lot going on
90 right now with the training. Interim Chief Olsen said that fire training is \$4,567.93 over and unfortunately,
91 the fire department will not get money back from the grant but the Town will. \$6,000 is coming back to
92 the Town from the grant. Interim Chief Olsen said that for each firefighter that is in the A class which is
93 \$1,900 a person, the money will be coming back to the Town. That is why they went forward with the
94 program. Interim Chief Olsen said there is between 32-30% remaining in the full-time firefighter's line. He
95 is concerned because they are 2.55 % above expenditure and it should be right on the budget. The only
96 thing he can think of is the 5% increase. He said there is money to offset. Erf said this is a bottom-line
97 budget and there are call force and per diem line items that give a little more wiggle room. Erf said that
98 they need to focus on the budget for next year because it is ridiculous to put thirty-five thousand dollars in

the line item called call when there is no way that amount of money will be spent. It would be appropriate to the voters and the Selectmen what is really going to be paid for the call force and per diem and allocate money back into the overtime line. Interim Chief Olsen said that there is only \$18,000 left in the on-call line and it is being used and it may not be enough. Interim Chief Olsen said he would like to see the budget broken down into a call budget and a full-time budget. Erf said she would like to see the Chief present the 2024 budget with more realistic numbers. Interim Chief Olsen said this year's budget is small and would like to see more of an aggressive budget. Interim Chief Olsen said he and Assistant Chief Roarick are trying to keep the budget to minimal spending for the remainder of the year.

Interim Chief Olsen said that Assistant Chief Roarick was able to furnish him with an ISO rating. The Town of Weare is a nine out of ten which is the lowest rating. The goal is to be a one rating. The ISO will help people lower their homeowner's insurance. Interim Chief Olsen said there is a lot to work on to get the number lower and thinks it can be done. Interim Chief Olsen spoke about the write-offs that the Town incurs as a rescue squad. Interim Chief Olsen said that there is \$105,539.23 that the Town will either go after or write off. Interim Chief Olsen said they would be going to the third party and trying to get the money. Interim Chief Olsen said they have received the quote for the utility truck which was \$7,942 and is already in the article that has been approved. They still have not received the body yet.

Interim Chief Olsen said he is going to a CIP meeting with Assistant Chief Roarick. They will be looking for a new engine it was \$850,000 and now it is \$929,000. They will be bringing this request to the CIP meeting with the permission of the Board. He said in 2025 they will have the portable radios that they need. They would like to try to put more in the budget and trying to schedule some of these purchases. In 2026 a new ambulance is looking to be purchased. In 2031 they had pushed out the tanker. In 2032 there would be a new fire engine. Interim Chief Olsen said that they will be speaking to the CIP subcommittee about the heavy rescue truck. It will be the third ambulance and they may be giving them up to get the truck but it is up in the air at this point. Interim Chief Olsen said they will have two engines, two ambulances, forestry, and a tanker. Donnel asked about the equipment on the rescue and where it would go. Interim Chief Olsen said that they would be looking at Capital Area to help with their HazMat team and looking at adding some of it into the utility vehicle and then in the new rescue. Donnel said in his opinion he would not cut out the engine and a rescue. Assistant Chief Roarick said he would like to see the CIP strictly for vehicles and see the department chip away at equipment purchases within the budget.

Military Leave: Interim Chief Olsen said that they are following the Town's policy but what they are doing is adding the fifteen days for one person. It is so the person is not missing out on the military leave and the town does pay the difference.

Donnelly motioned to accept the military leave standard operating procedures and guidelines. Seconded by Hewey. Motion passes 6-0-0.

Chief Olsen thanked the Board of Fire Wards and asked that they continue to support the Fire Department and the Chief.

Motion made by Donnelly to go into nonpublic under RSA 91: A-3 II (C). Seconded by Hewey. Motion passes 6-0-0.

Motion to adjourn made by Donnelly at 7:29 p.m. Seconded by Chris. Motion passes 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Kearsten O'Brien

Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker