

TOWN OF WEARE, NH
WEARE BOARD OF FIRE WARDS
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 10, 2011
Final Copy

PRESENT: Jon Osborne, Chairman; Scott Dinsmore, Steve Roberts, Dave Hewey, Frederick Hippler, Bob Vezina, Tim Maskiell, Sheila Savaria, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jon Osborne called the meeting to order at 6:33 at the Safety Complex.

II. WORK SESSION:

Chief Vezina: The Board reviewed the Standard Operating Guidelines regarding shift vacancy and discussed how to fill the shifts. The process needs to be written up and formalized. The Board also discussed scheduling problems.

The turnout gear was recently inspected and there were issues with leaking moisture layers in the newer suits. The Board discussed what standards the suits should be held to and how to remedy the problem. One Board member said the replacement program should be stepped up because there is fairly new gear that should not be failing within 5 years.

Chief Vezina discussed the department's budget. Some of the areas that will be cut or changed are: cell phones, fuel costs, the old emergency telephone line, salary changes, FICA numbers, utilities, lawn care, radio contract. Also, Chief Vezina said he is looking to fund Intercepts out of the Revenue part of the EMS budget line.

Chief Vezina confirmed that the Weare Fire Department is responsible for buying the employees uniforms if they are required to wear them. The Board discussed cost and possible places to get them.

Chief Vezina discussed an employee who was thought to recently have been 'double dipping' and being paid overtime from the fire department. This employee took a day off from his other town job and worked at the fire department that day making his hours go into overtime. The Board said a lot of people do it, but questioned if it is legal and if it should be allowed? There needs to be more clarification of this issue.

Jon Osborne: Chairman Osborne said it was time for the Board give any feedback to Chief Vezina, negative or positive. The Board members didn't have anything bad to say. Chief Vezina thanked them and said he feels things are progressing in the department. He went on to say that there are a lot of issues to be dealt with, but nothing that can't be remedied. Some issues he is dealing with now are the budget, end of year projections, vehicle inspections, motor vehicle accident, and turnout gear issues.

Chairman Osborne also wanted to discuss the future of the Board of Fire Wards and whether or not it was still useful. One of the issues is that the Board is unsure of their responsibility and authority now that there is a Chief who is managing the department who can go to the Selectmen directly. The issue over who would be in charge of reviewing and approving developmental plans and driveway plans was discussed. Some ideas that came up were having meetings when the Chief calls on the Board, or perhaps having quarterly meetings instead of breaking up the Board altogether.

III. OTHER BUSINESS:

Minutes: Steve Roberts moved to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2011 meeting; Tim Maskiell seconded, all voted in favor.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: As there were no further matters to discuss before the board, Chief Vezina declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Savaria
Recording Secretary