

DRAFT



WEARE BOARD OF FIRE WARDS
MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2024

PRESENT: STEVE ROBERTS- CHAIRMAN, WAYNE MEATTEY- VICE CHAIR, LOUISA ERF-MEMBER, MARK ROARICK-ACTING FIRE CHIEF, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NAOMI BOLTON, RICK HIPPLER.

ABSENT: DAVID HEWEY SR.-MEMBER, KILLIAN DONNELLY - NON-MEMBER, LEAH CUSHMAN- NON-MEMBER

Chair Steve Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Minutes: Vice Chair Meattey motioned to table the minutes for the next meeting. Seconded by Erf. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Manifest: Member Erf moved to accept the Fire Department's accounts payable manifest checks dated January 11, 2024, for \$5,670.23. Seconded by Vice Chair Meattey. Passed 4-0-0

Member Erf moved to accept the Fire Department's accounts payable manifest checks dated January 18, 2024, for \$2883.90. Seconded by Vice Chair Meattey. Passed 4-0-0

Personnel Old Business: Chief Roarick said members have finished their training at the Fire Academy. FF Andy Wheeler has graduated FF Level 1. He will now start working with LT. Meattey on the driver operator portion. Congratulations to FF Wheeler. Three members have passed the grant-funded AEMT class. FF Noah Brent, FF Cody Lemay, and FF Nathan Shatney. All three will be testing at the National level soon. This will greatly improve our medical response resources. Lt Charest is expected to start clinical in the near future for the Paramedic class. We accepted an application for the call department. FF Killian Donnelly has passed all prerequisites to join the call force again. Welcome FF Donnelly. We are still trying to recruit 2 other people.

Apparatus Old Business: Chief Roarick said the A-1 is back in the shop for a very strong odor of exhaust. Hillsboro Ford did do a smoke check and discovered a leak which they fixed, but after 1 run the smell was back. Donovan Spring stated that the body was supposed to be in Londonderry the first week of December. They are not sure at this point if they have it or not. They will call back. A new Ambulance has landed in Iowa. We have 190 more days till the projected delivery. Al Hooper was just as surprised to see the chassis show up. Radios have been ordered for both the New Ambulance and the Utility. E-1 is 90% stripped. Lost several lengths of hose to mice.

Fire Station Old Business: Chief Roarick said Armstrong did the preliminary walk-through to assess the station before the duct cleaning. JP Pest has been added to both the South Station and Sugar Hill Station. This was done due to the mouse problem. Member Erf asked about the dedicated phone lines and if there

were going to be more than \$600 bills from Granite State. Chief Roarick said there will be a cost but he does not think it will be \$600 because it is based on usage and that will be coming out of the EOC budget.

New Business: The Permit Web page is up and running at the Station. Anyone can stop in and get a fire permit. Umbral Technology will be in the station to assess the training room for EOC preparedness. Rough estimates are adding 2 dedicated phone lines and increasing our web availability.

Personnel New Business: Chief Roarick said that most members have gone through testing or will be testing shortly. We have been covering during snow storms with a third person. FF Donnelly will be starting his EMT Basic class soon. This class is grant-funded. Member Erf asked about personnel and if Chief Roarick expected more overtime to be used. Chief Roarick said they do have a member who is looking to leave and they will have a vacancy to fill and overtime will be used to cover the vacancy until it is filled. The overtime was used a lot this year due to training.

Apparatus New Business: Chief Roarick said the A-1 has been back to Hillsboro Ford multiple times. The decision was made to bring it to TMS Diesel. They took a look at it and stated that it needed to go back to Ford as there were obvious leaks. Twice it was at Ford but still had an exhaust smell. A-1 was ultimately brought to Grappone Ford in Concord. They identified a loose clam on the turbo. They tightened the clamp and we picked up the Ambulance. We have roughly 300 miles and multiple hours of run time outside and no smell is detected. The bill from Grappone was \$841.86. I called Hillsboro Ford and forwarded the bill to them. After some spirited conversation, they said they would call Ford and get back to me. Donavan Spring stated that the body has been built. Just needs to be delivered. Maybe in the next few weeks. Forestry truck has been moved to Sugar Hill Station #3 for the winter. Since the new engine was dropped by the Selectman, more money will have to be placed into upgrading E-5. E-1 is up at Highway for the winter. It will go to White Farm in the spring for auction. The body for the new A-1 is on the production floor being built. We will have some pictures soon of the body.

Fire Station New Business: Mouse traps have been very effective up at Sugar Hill Station # 3 New server to be upgraded. Chief Roarick said he is awaiting an answer on old air packs that can be sold back to the company. Armstrong will be here January 24 and 25 for duct cleaning.

Events of BOS Meeting: Chair Roberts said that he and Chief Roarick went to the BOS meeting to discuss the budget. The BOS did not support the new pumper warrant article and they pulled the warrant article for the full-time Chief. Chair Roberts said that he is very disappointed in the BOS for not taking into serious consideration that the BOFW takes their job seriously and put a lot of work in over the years. Chair Roberts said they talked about a part-time chief and if they were in the retirement system how they can only work 25 hours per week but they did not mention a waiver can be sought out from NH retirement for occasionally going to fire calls. Chair Roberts said that Selectman Mathews said there has been no transition effort and Chair Roberts stated he did not appreciate that comment because they sent Chief Olsen there in July to represent the BOFW. Chair Roberts said that Chief Olsen was told by one of the BOS members to go through the TA and no one on the BOS said anything different and Chief Olsen was doing just that. Chair Roberts said they have not heard from the BOS when they would like to go through the transition. Chair Roberts said he is not optimistic things will go well in the future. Chief Roarick said that he did contact the NH Retirement system and would need a letter drafted by the BOS and he has yet to contact the NH Fire Commission.

Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chair Meattley at 6:27 p.m. Seconded by Erf. Motion passes 4-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Kearsten O'Brien

Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker