BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 19, 2012

MINUTES (Beacon Hose Company No, (Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)

No, 1) JAN 25 2012

Pula BEACON FALLS TOWN CLERK

he Beacon Falls—Board—of

First Selectman G. Smith called the Special Meeting of the Beacon Falls—Board of Selectmen to order at 3:40 P.M with the Pledge to the Flag.. Meeting held to discuss various matters with Beacon Hose Company No. 1.

PRESENT: First Selectman Gerard F. Smith, Selectman D. Damico, Selectman C. Bielik.

ALSO PRESENT: Various members of Beacon Hose Company No. 1.

Chief M. Pratt noted recently a situation came up where the Fire Department was not able to get three (3) required quotes to have work done on one of their vehicles. He noted the job had to be done quickly and the department did go with the best price. He added the department uses responsible vendors who do a good job for them.

- P. Brennan noted the 'magic salt' currently used by the Town does a lot of damage to vehicles. He added that when a vehicle is down, it needs to get back on the road as soon as possible and getting three (3) quotes to fix a problem cannot always be accomplished.
- J. Rodorigo noted the second ambulance is experiencing transmission problems and he would to be pro-active in taking care of this. He then presented various prices for taking care of the transmission
- M. Pratt noted a yearly survey is done on all vehicles, allowing the department to keep on top of what maintenance its vehicles might need. G. Smith asked if knowledge of, for example brakes for a vehicle, could be planned for in advance and include regular maintenance. P. Brennan suggested labor and cost for parts be locked into the budget, which could save some money in a given fiscal year. It was noted there is a difference in costs for bigger vehicles versus smaller vehicles like an ambulance.
- M. Pratt noted the Fire Department has tried going to different vendors over the years, and sometimes this doe not always work out to the Town's advantage. He added the department's members also do a lot of work themselves as a cost savings to the Town.
- G. Smith asked if the department uses the State's bid lists to purchase items, with M. Pratt noting they do purchase tires through the bid list. G. Smith also asked about bidding out the labor costs.
- D. Damico noted that several people drive the ambulance, making it more likely for problems to occur.
- M. Pratt said he will provide the Town with a Vendor's List. He noted that going to a Chief's Show often results in significant savings for items the department needs. He said you can buy in bulk in order to 'get the best bang for your buck'.

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Discussion of the various options for a transmission for the ambulance. (1) do a complete flush of he transmission, (2) do a complete re-build of the current transmission with a warranty of 12,000 miles (estimated cost of \$4800), (3) install a brand new transmission., 3 year warranty and 100,000 miles (under \$4,000). Superior Transmission can do the job for \$2500 to rebuild what we already have and give a 3 year warranty..

After some discussion, J. Rodorigo suggested going with the \$2500 cost to Superior. He noted a new ambulance could cost \$200,000 and a price of approximately \$120,000 if you remount the current box on a new chasse. Current box is a 1999. G. Smith was concerned if you did this, what happens if the box is shot.

J. Rodorigo noted old ambulance is a Chevy.

All agreed that the Town's ambulances cannot be out of service. You cannot rent another ambulance. Someone noted you could buy an ambulance to use for \$500.00, and then sell it back when you are done with it.

After more discussion, Board agreed to explore Superior's proposal and to try the flushing first and if it does not work to proceed. Board wants to see a hard copy from Superior. The Board would then have to present this to the Board of Finance. M. Pratt also noted Gabe's and Hillside Auto are also putting together prices.

- G. Smith agreed the ambulance has to be taken care, and if the cost if \$2500, this could from the Contingency Fund.
- C. Bielik made motion to recommend to the Board of Finance that the estimated cost of \$2500 be taken from the Contingency Fund towards Vehicle Maintenance to make necessary transmission repair to the Town's older ambulance, 2nd by D. Damico. All aye.
- G. Smith said he would speak to Board of Finance Chairman about this. He added that when emergency situations come up, the Town should have a policy in place to handle these situations.

Special Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaun a. Wilson

Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen

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