

**SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE
MEETING
APRIL 25, 2016
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman M. Brennan called the Meeting of the Service Award Committee to order at 6:35 P.M.

PRESENT: M. Brennan, E. Grace, P. Brennan, J. Dowdell, J. Wrenn, P. Betkoski (arrived at 6:40)

ABSENT: K. George

Chairman M. Brennan explained how the Service Awards Board was comprised: 4 town representatives (to include BOF and BOS) and 3 members from Beacon Hose Co. 1. He noted that former members George Shea stepped down and Chris Kelly moved out of town and welcomed the two new members: Judith Wrenn and Ken George.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. Brennan noted there were no previous meeting minutes to review.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss updating and clarifying current point system (schedules A and B) used to qualify for the plan.

M. Brennan cited Schedules A and B for the Service Award Plan point system. He met with the fire chief and came up with a list of suggested changes including a possible increase of points per emergency call.

P. Brennan commented that the committee heads with a one-time commitment should not earn the same amount of points as the role of Chief Engineer and Line Officers which have on-going responsibilities.

M. Brennan agreed with the different compensation and that may need to be spelled out in the point system.

M. Brennan noted that three documents that govern the program (adoption agreement, master plan and local ordinance) should be consolidated and have been forwarded via First Selectmen Bielik to the town lawyer for review and no ordinance changes would be made until that is resolved.

P. Brennan also suggested changing the points earned for non-emergency activity, especially those that take a full day such as demonstrations at schools, from one point to three and make it equal to a call by classifying it as a drill. He also noted that volunteers participating in a department response must remain on the scene of the entire call to receive 3 points.

M. Brennan requested tabling the discussion on changes and noted the suggestions.

E. Grace asked for an informal consensus of the changes discussed.

J. Dowdell said he agreed to the changes.

E. Grace said he also agreed to the changes.

M. Brennan will bring the document back to the Service Award Board for review before it goes to the Board of Selectmen. He noted the Entitlement Benefits section was never approved in the ordinance.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve list of 2015 participants

The Board reviewed the list of Beacon Hose Company members who have met the qualifications for the Service Award Program for the 2014-2015 year.

Motion to approve the list as presented: P. Brennan, 2nd by J. Dowdell: all aye.

B. Eligibility of Janet and Arthur Norton

M. Brennan explained that Janet Norton has been involved since 1980 and Arthur Norton pre-1980, before the Service Awards program existed. The Norton's were not active when the program started but became active enough to qualify in 2003 and subsequent years. However, this was after the maximum age of 50 so they were never entered into the program. He noted that in 2012 the age restriction rules changed. Janet Norton has 17 years of activity and Arthur Norton has 10 and are still active.

M. Brennan shared the legal opinion he received from V.F.I.S. that suggested offering 3 years' of credit from 2012-2014 and 5 years for service prior to 1996 which is the maximum for previous service as stated in the master plan. He noted that if more years were given than all cases would need to be reviewed.

M. Brennan suggested letting the Norton's additional years of service count toward the tax abatement which is a local benefit separate from the plan benefit.

Motion to give Janet Norton and Arthur Norton credit for 8 years toward the Service Award plan: J. Dowdell, 2nd by E. Grace; all aye.

M. Brennan noted that any more years beyond the 8 will qualify towards the Norton's tax abatement benefit.

C. Normal Entitlement requests: Ted Smith, Thomas O'Connell

M. Brennan noted that both Ted Smith and Thomas O'Connell each have 20 years or more of service.

Motion to approve entitlement requests for Ted Smith and Thomas O'Connell: E. Grace, 2nd by P. Betkoski; all aye.

V. PETITIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Motion to approve the clerk bill as presented: P. Betkoski, 2nd by P. Brennan: all aye.

VI. PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC – none

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM: J. Dowdell, 2nd by E. Grace: all aye.

Respectfully submitted by

Martha Melville, Clerk