

**ENFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NON-PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
September 2nd, 2003**

Following appropriate vote in regular session, the Chairman convened a non-public session at 7:05 PM. Present were: Keith Oppenneer, Dominic Albanese, April Whittaker, Fire Chief David Crate, Fireward Tim Taylor and Fireward Richard Bean.

Mrs. Whittaker, Town Manager, framed the meeting by advising that Town Counsel had provided opinion that the elected firewards acted as a Commission board in much the same way as a Board of Selectmen, Library Trustees, etc., and therefore were excluded from Town Manager and Selectmen supervision unlike other departments ~ See RSA 37:6 and enclosed opinion. Therefore the responsibilities for liability, administration and adequate training were grounded within the framework of the powers and duties of the elected firewards. She emphasized that given the liability concerns that she had witnessed over a six month period together with the roll over of the fire pumper truck, it was time for the firewards to step up to their duties or face the wrath of the electorate as had been indicated to her from numerous phone calls and e-mails. Having clarified the supervision and responsibility issues, Mrs. Whittaker presented an agenda (see enclosed copy) to act as a road map to ensure remedial action within the Fire Department, and as a focus of discussion items.

The Selectmen, and firewards discussed the various issues as cited in the agenda leading to a consensus that there would be an enhanced mutual working relationship in order to achieve best management practices within the Fire Department. Selectmen and Mrs. Whittaker emphasized wanting to be responsive in assisting the firewards. Also the firewards were very agreeable, and appreciative to accept outside training assistance from the Town's insurers, namely NHMA Property Liability Trust and Primex (Workers Compensation insurance).

Mrs. Whittaker discussed with Fire Chief Crate the need to manage anger issues, and of the liability that it places the town with respect to "an unsafe working environment." The firewards and the chief respectively apologized for the occurrences and agreed to do better in the future.

Other issues discussed related to driving of emergency vehicles.

There being no further business, motion Albanese, second Oppenneer, to return to regular session for the purposes of adjournment, vote 2 – 0.

Respectfully submitted, April Whittaker