

DISTRICT AREA BOARD MEETING
***Boards of Selectmen and School Boards from Fremont, Kingston and Newton
& the Sanborn Regional School Board***

DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015
TIME: 6:30PM

LOCATION: FREMONT SAFETY COMPLEX
425 MAIN STREET
FREMONT NH 03044

MEETING MINUTES

- I. At 6:30 pm the meeting was call to order by Gene Cordes, Chair of the Fremont Board of Selectmen, at the Fremont Safety Complex, 425 Main Street in Fremont.
- II. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Present for the meeting were: Gene Cordes, Neal Janvrin, Leon Holmes Sr, Fremont Board of Selectmen; Heidi Carlson, Fremont Town Adminstrator; Jon Twiss, Fremont Police Chief, Greg Huard, DARE Officer Fremont Police Department; Leon Holmes Jr, Fremont Road Agent; George Korn, Kingston Selectman; Rich St Hilaire, Kingston Road Agent/EMD; Bill Seaman, Kingston Fire Chief, John Alcaindinho, Newton Fire Chief; Debbie Alcaindinho; Bob Zelenski, Newton Fire Captain; Lisa Gonyer, Jim Doggett, Matthew Burrill, and Larry Foote, Newton Selectmen; Nancy Wrigley, Newton Town Administrator; Wendy Miller, SRSB Chair; Andy Kohlhofer, Chair and Jenn Brown, Member of the Fremont School Board; and Mike Pivero, Newton Road Agent.

All went around the room and introduced themselves.

- IV. Scheduled Business

1. PTO for Part-time Employees

Cordes indicated that Fremont had recently adopted a Paid Time Off Policy for certain part-time employees. Copies were available for attendees. Cordes described the Board's process for creation of it, indicating that Fremont is not a leader in pay and that they wanted to have another benefit to offer part-time employees who have some vested stake in Fremont. Criteria are that employees must be scheduled to work, and work at least 20 hours per week all year long, and must have been with the Town at least one year.

The policy has been well-received by employees.

2. Emergency Plans / Preparedness / Safety

Cordes opened the topic by indicating this was something all Towns are concerned with, and asked Chief Twiss to lead off about Fremont's current position with regard to emergency planning.

Twiss indicated that the Rockingham County Sherriff's Office is currently the key to the hub of the county, and all town's present are dispatched through the center. (Fremont Fire Rescue is dispatched by Raymond Dispatch). In any large event, people get burned out pretty quickly as resources are taxed. Mutual aid is in effect and towns call on one another in any large scale event.

There was extensive discussion about a potential Newton Middle School roof collapse last winter. Wendy Miller, Chair of the SRSB talked about improving school communications between Administrators, School Board members, parents and public safety officials.

She indicated that many people felt the roof leaking and potential collapse was a significant issue and that there was poor communication about what had happened and what they wanted to do about it. Children were evacuated from the school but some staff remained, and the evacuation was done without notification to the School Board.

This led to lengthy discussion about how situations are handled in Kingston, with Chief Seaman detailing out his relationship with school officials and how they handle situations and communicate about the schools in Kingston.

Chief Butler discussed an evacuation of the Colonial Poplin Nursing Home in Fremont several years ago and what that was to orchestrate. He described working very well with most area hospitals, and being very concerned about the issues of the moment versus calling the State EOC to make reports, which was all work that needed to wait until the severity of the situation was behind them.

Chief Seaman discussed the schools he is responsible for in Kingston and how he handles events, including having debriefing sessions following any incident. He stated that Fremont, Newton and Hampstead are on automatic mutual aid for any major event at the schools; and that Fremont and Newton are automatic for any event at the high school.

There was discussion about regional shelter planning and use of the Sanborn Regional High School for a shelter. Community volunteers are needed to make use of this resource, and there was discussion about how to preplan its use in the event that only one of the towns had a problem (isolated versus town and county wide events like floods and ice storms).

There was a strong call for a unified plan for response to an emergency at the schools within the District. Newton officials said that in Newton there is not the same plan in the two schools there, and this is a potential cause for confusion and misdirection as well (ie: each school has a separate/different response plan). There is discretion for certain circumstances but most felt that it is important for common response plans so that everyone knows what to expect.

Huard discussed the school emergency plan that Fremont has in place at Ellis, and recently NH HSEM representatives came down to walk through and do an inspection at Ellis regarding school safety items. Huard discussed the good working relationship between police and school officials (Local School District and SAU Administration). Janvrin added that when he had been Fremont Police Chief that there were often impromptu drills to test the systems and plans that were in place.

There are obviously many different situations and many responses as to how they are dealt with, both emergency and non-emergency. There was extensive discussion about communication and how to reach out to the school officials, to get them involved in this process. There was a desire to have other members of the Sanborn Regional School Board present at this meeting, and Selectmen and School Board members will reach out to others and see about participation in the next meeting.

It was stated that local emergency officials were involved in the Newton roof matter after the fact, but a real concern about the communication between Newton Town Officials and the Sanborn Regional School District.

There was a discussion about meeting regularly with emergency responders, School Boards, and Selectmen; so that all groups get together make regular and uniform plans about how we handle emergencies and other issues. Clearly we can't plan for everything, but more communication is needed.

There was discussion of creating a District-wide Safety Committee that would meet 3-4 times per year and address shared concerns on a regular basis.

Selectmen in the room discussed moving forward to each of their respective School Boards and SAU staff about being put on the agenda at a SRSD meeting and talking with the SRSB about these matters, as well as having an annual meeting between the Town's Selectmen and School Boards.

There was discussion about Fremont students and notification for Fremont students if there is an incident at the high school. Fremont is only involved in the high school and is not part of the Sanborn District, tuitioning in with high school students only.

Selectman Korn suggested the Boards of Selectmen getting more involved working with first responders and getting the school administration up to date and improving communications.

Holmes Sr mentioned the drug situation and how that is an increasing problem within our schools as well.

Newton Chief Streeter stated that his day to day contact with the Principals and Superintendents is fine, but the overall emergency planning issue is one that needs to be improved.

Overall the goal is education of our children and their overall safety.

There was discussion about when to get together again. It is Kingston's turn to host the meeting (keeping with moving around the three towns). Before setting a date, Kingston and Newton will approach the SRSB and ask for a meeting and then decide on the next meeting date, hoping to encourage participation of the School Board as well.

It is hoped to do this in the next month or two, by the end of October so that it does not sit all winter. Fremont officials discussed getting together with our local School Board and School Administration as well.

3. Upcoming events for cooperative interaction

There was discussion about the Town's reaching out to their respective School boards and Superintendents to get stakeholder participation in the next meeting. Pending that, a date was not set.

4. Date and location of next meeting

It is anticipated that the next meeting would be held in Kingston within the next couple of months.

V. Other Business - None

VI. Adjourn – At 8:00 pm Cordes adjourned the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Fremont Town Administrator