

# MINUTES

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## Board of Fire Engineers Board, Committee, Office, Etc.

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Date: October 20, 2014 Time: 6:30 P.M.

Present: Chief Rudge, Asst. Chief Hamilton, Asst. Chief Hobin,  
Asst. Chief Gasco, Asst. Chief Piscitelli

Absent: None

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Minutes from 10/6/14 were approved. Invoices were signed. Mail was read. Account balances were reviewed.

### **6:00 P.M.-CAPTAINS & LIEUTENANTS MEETING**

The following officers were present: Capt. Newlands, Lt. Cadrin, Lt. LaVallee, Capt. King, Lt. King, Lt. Kosiba, Capt. Silver, Lt. Stevens, Capt. Brock, and Lt. Krumsiek. Lt. Lahair was not present because his dad passed away yesterday. Chief Rudge started the meeting by saying the department was doing a good job, continuing to train, and getting better at wearing gear at a call. Other highlights:

1. The Department's AFG application for SCBA replacement was denied. The Board will move forward and use the Article approved at Town Meeting. Specs will be drawn up and the Board would like to go out to bid in November.
2. The South Main Street Bridge (near the VFW) will be closed to all traffic for an indefinite amount of time. Access to Sycamore Street and beyond #19 South Main will be made by using Maple Street. Chief Rudge advised those responding to the stations from that area to do so cautiously. Lt. Stevens asked how Engine 3 should respond to 95 Elm Street since they are supposed to take the hydrant near the VFW. Chief Rudge said Engine 3 should use School Street to access the hydrant.
3. Chief Rudge told the officers that he wanted to call a meeting of the Public Safety Building Sighting Committee so the group could move forward with their plans. The Town Manager still had not appointed another member to the Committee and there was no chairman. After Chief Rudge inquired about calling a meeting, Mr. Spain appointed Jayne Davolio-Town Clerk-as chair of the Committee. The group is still waiting for a meeting to be called. Chief Rudge said the Committee wanted to do informational meetings with town residents and provide a video of the conditions at each fire station and the Police Station.
4. Polo shirts are being ordered for all members. They will make up the Class C uniform for the Fire Department. They are to be worn for fire department approved functions only-they are not to be worn at any other time unless approved by the Board of Fire Engineers. Fire Department inspectors can wear the shirts when doing inspections.
5. The Board will set a date tonight for the clean-up at Butler Farm. The Sheriff's Office has offered a crew to help.
6. Chief Rudge said he was disappointed to see low or lack of attendance at wakes, funerals, and events sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary. He said this is a brotherhood. We take care of our own and it is a show of respect (to attend a wake) whether you knew the person or not. The Ladies Auxiliary is a hard working group and we should show our support by attending their functions like the meat raffle. Chief Rudge asked the officers to speak to their guys about better attendance.

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7. Chief Rudge explained the change the Board is considering to the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP). The free ride is over. A firefighter will have to make a certain percentage of calls/training to earn credit for a year of service under the LOSAP. More information will follow.
8. Details for fire drills and fire prevention events will now be paid at the regular hourly rate-as long as funds are available. Chief Rudge reminded the officers that if you are paid for a detail, it is not to be included in the quarterly reports. This is the same for mutual aid details that do not have a run number. You will be paid the hourly rate and it is not to be included in the quarterly reports.
9. Inventories will be done in January.
10. Asst. Chief Hamilton has established a fire department Facebook page. All postings are to be done by Asst. Chief Hamilton and/or with the approval of the Board of Fire Engineers.
11. Eagle Scout candidates are looking for project ideas. Forward any ideas to the Board of Fire Engineers.
12. Chief Rudge told the officers to pass the word on that if you are at a working fire and EMS is on scene, you must go to rehab. It's a safety thing and you will do it! Asst. Chief Piscitelli added that the ambulance is there for your safety, and they have the authority to keep you from returning to service.
13. Funeral services for Bob Lahair's father will be tomorrow night in Worcester. All are to meet at Fire HQ by 6:30 p.m. in Class A uniform.
14. Chief Rudge asked if the officers had any questions: -Capt. King asked about truck repairs. He was told the Town Mechanic is catching up and should start fire department apparatus soon. Safety issues are being addressed. -Capt. Silver told the group that the Explorer Post also has a Facebook page. He said the group just participated in a large training exercise in New Hampshire. -Capt. Brock asked if the Board would consider sending a crew of six instead of four for mutual aid calls. He said if the help is available, six should go. Chief Rudge explained that the policy was not based on the number of seats in a vehicle but on the number of personnel required to run the truck. One officer, a driver, and two firefighters were considered the crew needed to operate a truck. Also, we don't want to strip a station or area of Town of available members—especially if the call involves more than one truck responding. Lt. King noted that the guys should not be going to mutual aid calls in their own vehicles. He thought a reminder should be sent out. Asst. Chief Hobin said that recruits are not to go to mutual aid calls either. -Capt. Brock asked if the Papa Gino's visit could be done on a weekend next year. The Thursday night visit was very slow with few people attending. Asst. Chief Hamilton said Papa Gino's requested a Thursday night. It was not up to the Fire Department. -Lt. Stevens asked if we heard anything about the grant to replace the brush truck. He was told it was denied. -Lt. Krumsiek asked if high band portables were available to use for mutual aid calls (to the scene). Asst. Chief Hamilton said he is working on this. -Lt. Krumsiek also asked about pump testing. Asst. Chief Hobin said he will do pumping test sometime within the next three weeks.
15. Chief Rudge ended the meeting by thanking all for doing a good job and to keep up the good work.

### **S.O.G. #23 DRESS UNIFORM GUIDELINE**

Board members reviewed the changes to the Dress Uniform Guideline. Asst. Chief Gasco had several changes he wanted made. He wanted a specific type of

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pants (navy blue Dickies) listed for the Class C uniform. This would assure uniformity. Also, the last item should be in paragraph form and not a numbered list, and should include that anything with a Fire Dept. badge on it can only be used for Fire Department sanctioned functions with the approval of the Fire Chief or Board of Fire Engineers. Discussion took place. Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion to accept the Guideline with the noted changes. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Hamilton and carried on a 5-0 vote.

### OLD & NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Rudge presented the following truck repair report based on P.M.'s done on 10/6/14:
  - Engine 1: light bar out on right side, right rear red strobe is out, left side step light is out, cracks under cab, tank to pump pipe leaking.
  - Rescue 1: Radio 102 missing, battery pack for underwater camera no good.
  - Tower 1: Saw no running
  - Engine 2: top red strobe out on left side, left side quartz light out, right side step light is out, rust on rear compartment, cross lay leaking, 2½ cross lay gauge not working
  - Engine 4: rust spots rear compartments, plate light out.
  - Hose 1: need radiator coolant
  - Engine 3: no report submitted
  - Forestry 1: no report submitted
  - Engine 5: generator parts on order, handle for deck gun not working, strobe lights out, left front corner red strobe, left side red strobe near rear axle, left & right side rear bottom strobes out, pump panel lights right side not working.
- Board members agreed the officers meeting went well--there were few issues to address and meetings should be held every quarter.
- Chief Rudge told the Board that the chairman of District 7's Radio Committee (Asst. Chief Hamilton) is looking for ideas or needs. Asst. Chief Hamilton said one goal of the Committee is to have a radio that will allow you to talk to anyone in the District.
- There has been no reply from Mr. Spain concerning Accident & Sickness Coverage for the Explorers or changing the name of the Fire Department's LOSAP.
- Asst. Chiefs Hamilton and Gasco, and Capt. Silver will attend the two-day NFPA 1 classes on 10/27 & 10/28. Capt. Newlands and FF. LaVallee will attend classes in October and November.
- The Town broke ground at the Butler Farm for the new Bark Park. Chief Rudge will check the site to see if a clean-up detail can be done now.
- A sign-up sheet will be sent out for those interested in helping with fire drills on either November 20 or 21. This will be a paid detail.

Asst. Chief Hamilton:

- ~ Will check Engine 3's on-spots,
- ~ Needs to contact Judy O'Connor for the smoke detector program

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- ~ Ordered strobe lights for all trucks,
- ~ Will set-up appointments to have Tower 1 & Rescue 1 serviced,
- ~ Noted that Fire Prevention Week went well. The program reached more than 1300 kids. Jeff Dore was a big help and there was a lot of good feedback from the schools.

Asst. Chief Hobin:

- ~ Will do pump testing within the next three weeks.
- ~ Rescheduled Lt. Desorcy to do driver training for the department

Asst. Chief Gasco:

- ~ Spoke to Bill from Hawill's about the issue with the boat. Hawill's recommended installing a skirt and sent one for the Department to test. Board members agreed that if one is purchased, they will get a heavy skirt. The skirt may be tested this week.
- ~ Said the 4-cycle gas has been delivered to HQ. It needs to be distributed to the other stations.
- ~ Told the Board Tower 1's chain saw was taken to Rt. 146 Supply for repairs.
- ~ Is working on the SOG for Fox Bus.

Asst. Chief Piscitelli:

- ~ Was told Dorenzo's received the part for Engine 5's generator and repairs should be done soon,
- ~ Told the Board repairs to the moulding on the overhead door at HQ were started,
- ~ Will take the deck gun handle to Specialty Vehicle for repair or replacement.

- Asst. Chief Hamilton will attend a grant writing workshop next week in Sutton. David Paar will be there and Asst. Chief Hamilton will speak to him about Millbury's applications.
- Asst. Chief Hobin asked for a radio to communication with Grafton during mutual aid. Board members agreed a radio should be provided for Engine 3, Engine 5, and chief officers. Asst. Chief Hamilton will look into this.
- Asst. Chief Gasco had SCBA specs for the Board to review. Discussion took place. The specs will be addressed at the next Board meeting.
- Asst. Chief Hamilton told the Board the Town may be reimbursed for up to 15% of the cost of the SCBA's. He is looking into a grant from the U.S.D.A.
- Asst. Chief Hamilton brought up for discussion the effect facial hair has on a face mask. The Board questioned if a policy needs to be put in place. All agreed it was their responsibility to keep the firefighters safe and to have them use the equipment properly. Asst. Chief Piscitelli felt the issue should be settled. It was agreed to discuss this at a later meeting.

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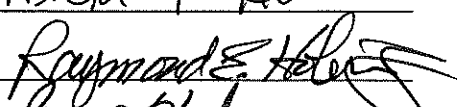


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- The battery for the underwater camera short circuited and burned out. It was removed from Rescue 1.
- The fire in Sutton was brought up for discussion. It was agreed that the ambulance works under the authority of the fire chief or officer-in-charge. All firefighters are to go to rehab and can be detained by EMS personnel.
- Asst. Chief Piscitelli asked that a reminder be sent about not responding to mutual aid calls in private vehicles. He also asked about changing the mutual aid policy to six firefighters. The Board agreed to keep the policy as is—with four responding.

Asst. Chief Piscitelli made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

  
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Rich P. Hall  
  
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Raymond E. Helms  
  
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Brian H. Brown  
  
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St. P. Piscitelli

Regina A. Markey, Clerk