



# Town of New Castle, NH

## Board of Fire Wards

### Minutes of August 12, 2014 Meeting

Present: Chairman Dennis Dinsmore, Fire Ward Reg Whitehouse, Fire Ward Damon Frampton, Selectperson Patricia Scholz-Cohen.

In Attendance: Chief David Blanding, NCFD, Peter Rice, Jim Rini, Tom Smith, Dave McGuckin, Bill Cronin, Erin Kelly, Ryan Chase, Teddy Golter, Mark Wooley, Terri Golter LaMontagne

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dinsmore at 1604 hrs.

A motion was made by Whitehouse to approve the draft minutes from the June 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 without correction. Seconded by Frampton. Motion passed.

Fire Ward's Report: No report at this time

Fire Chief's Report:

1. All EMTs have been trained to administer intranasal NARCAN (naloxone) to suspected drug (Opioid) overdose. Nationwide deaths from prescription painkillers have reached epidemic levels killing more Americans than motor vehicle accidents.
2. NCFD conducted joint fire training with the Rye FD at the Fort Stark Smoke House practicing search and rescue (SAR), hoseline and thermal imaging camera (TIC) tactical procedures.
3. NCFD has placed in service a Rad-57 Signal Extraction Pulse CO-Oximeter (a noninvasive, arterial oxygen saturation and pulse rate monitor) on Rescue 7.
4. NCFD will be making two public presentations; the first on August 19<sup>th</sup> at the New Castle Historical Society building and the second on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Public Safety building.
5. Volunteer Firefighter Brently Childs is attending the NH Dept. of Safety, Bureau of Training, Firefighter I Program at the Fire Academy in Concord, NH.  
(<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/trainingcert/programs/tprogramsf1.html>)

Select Board's Liaison Report:

1. Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), Scholz-Cohen and Blanding are identifying potential committee member candidates and are looking for suggestions from the Fire Wards, of one or two additional individuals living in the Town of New Castle, not affiliated with the NCFD, to volunteer for the committee.
2. Dinsmore and Rini have been invited to participate in the SPC and have accepted the invitations.
3. Cohen has requested that the NCFD (Chief Blanding) review the engineering plans of the proposed school building and become involved with the specification process to insure NFPA code compliance.

Unfinished Business:

- a. E911 notifications and how to inform New Castle residence of the notification options; Text message, Email, etc. Islander article, Town Website and public notifications –
  - i. COMPLETED; identified on the Town website with a link connecting to a registration page for Code Red membership.
- b. Status of "AH" on the fire hydrant
  - i. COMPLETED; Whitehouse
- c. Status of NCFD website to be reviewed on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

New Business: None at this time

1. Frampton inquired about NCFD's method of payment for volunteers after visiting the Ossipee FD. Blanding explained that NCFD has a point system, each point is equal to \$14.00 and each emergency call responded to by a volunteer or each training evolution (Monday evenings) is worth one (1) point. Frampton put forth the question of increasing the monetary value of each point in an effort to increase the turnout for emergency calls. Frampton told the Board that the Ossipee FD receives \$25 (Corrected amount) per point.

Announcements: None at this time

Public Deliberation

1. McGuckin inquired about not saving public comments until the Public Deliberation section of the meeting, wanting to make comments as the meeting progressed. Dinsmore (Chairman) stressed the desire to maintain control of the agenda, therefore, continuing all public comments to be expressed during the allocated time.
2. McGuckin; The Maude H. Trefethen Elementary School will not approve the new building plans until a Fire Protection Engineer is employed to oversee the building design for current fire protection standards.
3. McGuckin; Joint training questions; Does NCFD train with other departments in addition to the Rye FD. Blanding's response included training with Portsmouth FD, Kittery FD, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard FD stressing that training is a high priority for the department.
4. McGuckin recommended that recruiting efforts be added to the list of topics to be discussed at each Fire Ward's meeting.
5. Cronin; Volunteers typically don't show up because of the money, but, during the work day volunteers cannot make up the difference between lost income from leaving work based on the single point value offered by the NCFD.
6. Chase; NCFD has money budgeted for training, but, many required EMT courses are paid for by the individual. As an example, EMT Basic and EMT Intermediate are \$1,000 each.
7. Smith had questions on the NCFD budget process. Dinsmore; The Fire Chief is responsible for developing the budgets for the FD, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Emergency Management. The Fire Wards review the proposed budget prior to submitting the information to the Town of New Castle.
8. Smith; Does the Fire Chief answer to the Town of New Castle or to the Fire Wards? Dinsmore; As stated in RSA 91, the Fire Chief reports to the Fire Wards.
9. Golter LaMontagne; Suggested that the FD adopt a Longevity Bonus (\$250) for volunteers at five (5) increments to assist in subsidizing time away from work and retaining members.
10. Rice; Would the SPC consider former members of the NCFD as additional contributors to the committee? Scholz-Cohen will not eliminate an individuals from the committee.

Upcoming Fire Ward's Meeting

September 9, 2014 at the Public Safety Building from 4:00 – 5:00PM

Fire Ward Final Comments: None at this time

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1640 hrs. by Whitehouse and seconded by Frampton. The vote was unanimous.

Reggie Whitehouse, Secretary  
New Castle Board of Fire Wards

Minutes Submitted: August 18, 2014  
Minutes Approved: September 9, 2014