



Town of New Castle, NH

Board of Firewards

Approved Minutes of December 9, 2014 Meeting

Present: Firewards Chairman Dennis Dinsmore, Fireward Reg Whitehouse, Fireward Damon Frampton.

In Attendance: Patricia Scholz-Cohen, New Castle Selectboard Chairman, Chief David Blanding, NCFD, Dave McGuckin, Tom Smith, Bill Cronin, Peter Rice, Jessica Carroll, Doug Voss, Mark Wooley, Terri Golter,

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dinsmore at 16:01 hours, followed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our military veterans.

A motion was made by Whitehouse to approve the minutes from October 14, 2014 without correction. Seconded by Frampton. Motion passed.

Fire Ward's Report: None at This Time

Fire Chief's Report:

1. The NCFD website is 100% functional under the town's website. A thank you was extended to Cohen for her assistance, "as the driving force for making it possible".
2. Brently Childs completed his Firefighter 1 training and is now certified by the State of New Hampshire.
3. NCFD has received a \$400.00 matching grant from the NH Department of Forest and Lands for the purchaser of Nomex® shirts and pants for wildlands firefighting.
4. Engine 1 participated in the "Wentworth's Illumination" on Tuesday, December 2 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm with a complement of six (6) firefighters collecting toys for needy families.
5. Engine 1 participated in the Rye Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 7 from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm with a complement of three (3) firefighters.
6. NCFD has received a letter from FEMA Region I – N.H. Offsite Response Organization has completed a REP Exercise Cycle with NO ARCAs (Areas Requiring Corrective Action). This is the first time an exercise has been completed for the State of New Hampshire without ARCS.

Select Board's Liaison Report:

1. The Select Board has agreed to continue the mailing of the Island Items newsletter for the residence of New Castle and encouraged NCFD to provide information and articles for publication in the newsletter.
2. The Budget Committee has been asked by the town accountant to encourage the NCFD to reduce the number of budget line items and consolidate items into fewer categories. A final decision will be made within the next two weeks.
3. The Budget Committee has requested the NCFD's budget by January 20, 2015 and Chief Blanding has requested the format documentation ASAP and Cohen has agreed to provide the information by Friday, December 12, 2014.

Recruiting Efforts Report:

1. Damon Frampton posed a question to the department, "What would it take for more people to come to the NCFD and volunteer?"
 - a. Comments received:
 - i. Excellent Leadership
 - ii. Excellent Training
 - iii. Money is nice but not important
 - iv. Pay is a good reminder
 - v. Host a Firefighter 1 Course

- vi. Post "In House" positions for the town
 - vii. Have town employees be active firefighters while at work
 - viii. Weekend part-time Firefighters; List of points to provide additional tasks while onsite
 - ix. Equipment
 - x. Part-Time Firefighter and EMS positions
 - xi. Job Fair
 - xii. Bunk Rooms
 - xiii. Explorer Program
- b. Additional comments and ideas have been requested from the NCFD

Unfinished Business: None at This Time

New Business:

1. Whitehouse discussed the request from the New Castle Police Department (NCPD) to relocate their Evidence Room (ER) from the Town Hall to the third floor mezzanine of the Fire Station without informing Chief Blanding.
McGuckin responded that he spoke to Chief Blanding today (Tuesday, December 9th) informing him that Police Chief White would speak to him regarding the move. McGuckin added that the ER needs to be removed from the Town Hall and there is not adequate space in the Police Station for an ER, and, the mezzanine is public safety space, available to both fire and police needs. Chief Blanding had not heard from Chief White.
2. Cohen responded that at a Town Hall Committee Meeting, it was agreed that the next step in the process was to speak with Chief Blanding prior to moving forward with planning estimates. Chief Blanding was not informed and taken by surprise when a construction contractor arrived to gather information. Chief Blanding discussed the short fall of planning for a code compliant ER in the NCPD during the construction phase of the new Public Safety building in 2010. Cohen agreed with Chief Blanding and stated that the first order of business should be to identify the code requirements for an ER and base all decisions on said requirements.

Announcements:

1. NCFD will begin the annual "Santa Clause Run" at 4:30PM Christmas Eve, wishing holiday greetings to all with Made in the USA candy canes.

Public Deliberation:

1. Rice commented on the amount of time he dedicated to organizing the mezzanine area after the NCFD moved into the new building, and, that he be consulted on how best to reorganize the mezzanine area. He also expressed concerns of the security of the building allowing access to the mezzanine.
2. Golter stated her preference to have the NCPD better utilize their existing space for an ER before they take mezzanine space from the NCFD.

Upcoming Fireward's Meeting

1. January 13, 2015 at the Public Safety Building from 4:00 – 5:00PM

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 16:49 hrs. by Frampton and seconded by Whitehouse. The vote was unanimous.

Reggie Whitehouse, Secretary
New Castle Board of Fire Wards

Draft Minutes Submitted: December 10, 2014
Minutes Approved: January 13, 2015