

# Board of Fire Wards Town of New Castle, NH

Minutes of 11 February 2014 Meeting

Present: Fire Ward Reg Whitehouse, Fire Ward Carl Roediger

In Attendance: Selectperson Lorn Buxton, Selectperson Patty Cohen, Chief David Blanding

The meeting was called to order by Whitehouse at 1611 hrs.

A motion was made by Whitehouse to approve the draft minutes from the 14 January 2014 meeting without correction. Seconded by Roediger. Motion passed.

## Chief's Agenda Items

The Town has been invited to participate in the NH Emergency Notification System. This system provides a way for the Town to notify residents of emergency situations that may affect them. It works with normal landline phone, cellular, voice over IP (VOIP), electronic mail, and text messaging. The Town would need to opt into the system and designate a responsible party for initiating messages as well as administering the local system. Cellular users would have to allow the System to access their service.

Two new members have enrolled in the Firefighter I training program in Brentwood.

The Fire Department's web site is down and under repair. A member is offering to assist in the rebuild.

The Department's budget proposal for FY15 has been submitted to the Budget Committee. An additional line item has been added this year to provide for weekend station coverage. The total, \$20,000, would provide compensation for the manning of the station each weekend day. Presently, the Department has been seeing spotty turnout for some calls and, since many of the members live off island causing a longer response time, having the station manned provides a much greater ability to respond. Personnel wanting to participate in this coverage must be certified to the Firefighter II and EMT levels. The on-duty person would also be responsible for some household and equipment maintenance. This led to a discussion about an old proposal put forth by the Department concerning the training of Town employees. In the past, police officers were trained as medical first responders, with several officers trained as EMTs. As Police officers are most often first on scene, would it not make sense for that individual to be trained and certified as EMT's and thus bolster the response capability of the Town? Should this proposal include Public Works, etc.? The discussion will continue.

## Old Business

None

New Business

None.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2014 @ 4:00pm at the New Castle Fire Station. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1700 hrs. by Whitehouse and seconded by Roediger. The vote was unanimous.

Carl F. Roediger, Secretary  
New Castle Board of Fire Wards

Minutes Approved: 03/11/14