



Town of New Castle, NH

Board of Firewards

Minutes of January 13, 2015 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, Carl Roediger, Tom Smith, Dave McGuckin, Bill Cronin, Erin Kelly, Ryan Chase, Mark Wooley

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dinsmore at 16:00 hrs.

A motion was made by Whitehouse to approve the draft minutes from the December 9th 2014 meeting as written. Seconded by Frampton. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Whitehouse to approve the draft minutes from the January 5th 2015 meeting with corrections. Seconded by Frampton. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Ward's Report:

1. Dinsmore discussed the relocation of the Evidence Room (ER) from the Town Hall to the third floor mezzanine of the Fire Station referencing two articles; Designing the Perfect Evidence Room, <http://www.pattersonpoppe.com/2013/04/designing-evidence-room-storage/> and Property Room Design by Steve Berdrow.
2. Dinsmore made a Motion that the Firewards submit, to the Board of Selectmen, their recommendation not to allow an ER be constructed within the mezzanine area above NCFD Apparatus Bay. Seconded by Whitehouse. Motion passed unanimously.
Discussion followed; Cohen stated that a decision was made to have the ER in the NCPD as decided by Chief White and that information was to be communicated to the NCFD.
3. Proposed FY 2016 NCFD Budget Submitted January 5th

Fire Chief's Report:

1. NCFD conducted their annual Christmas Party which included an Awards Ceremony.
2. NCFD conducted their annual Santa Run on Christmas Eve with six members of the department beginning at 16:30 ending at 21:30. It was very well received by the residence of New Castle and their guests.
3. NCFD conducted several training evolutions during the month of December, two at Ft. Stark, one at the Great Island Commons and classroom training activities including Situational Awareness for violent encounters.
4. During the heavy rain storm, NCFD provided services to several residences pumping out basements saving property from damages.
5. Throughout the last month, NCFD has experienced several member volunteers sustaining personal physical injuries making them unable to respond emergencies.
6. Brently Childs has recently been certified as a Paramedic and Firefighter 1, taking courses simultaneously.
7. Department members are now being paid twice a year for points earned.

Select Board's Liaison Report:

1. The deadline for articles to be published in the Island Items is January 28, 2015 and will be publishing subsequent issues on a quarterly basis.

Recruiting Efforts Report:

1. Frampton stated, during the FY 2016 budget exercise, NCFD proposed weekend and holiday paid station coverage as part of a phase approach to enhance recruitment.
2. Chief Blanding added, there are two new potential applicants to the department, one EMT from Durham and a junior member from Portsmouth HS and a resident of New Castle.

Unfinished Business: None at this time

New Business: None at this time

Announcements: None at this time

Public Deliberation

1. McGuckin asked that Dinsmore reconsider the rules set forth at each meeting requiring the general public to hold all questions until the Public Deliberation period and Cohen agreed with McGuckin's point. Dinsmore said he will consider the request. McGuckin said that the NCPD will have the Evidence Room within the NCPD space on the first floor. He also stated that the NCPD will be needing additional space for miscellaneous items. Whitehouse suggested that the "Old Fire House" be utilized for the NCPD's requirements. Cohen again reiterated that there are Code issues that need to be considered before deciding on additional space requirements for the NCPD and that considerations be opened to all available space within town properties.
2. Cronin wanted to clarify comments Frampton made on funding the proposed weekend and holiday paid station coverage and said that the purpose goes beyond recruiting, it encompasses retention, participation and to encourage additional skill development, further extending the benefits of weekend and federal holiday coverage. Cronin recommended that the activity should be renamed, Incentive Shifts. Rice continued with comments on the importance of retaining mezzanine space for NCFD equipment, supplies and the myriad of items needed to maintain and run the department.

Upcoming Fire Ward's Meeting

February 10, 2015 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 1646 hrs. by Frampton and seconded by Whitehouse. The vote was unanimous.

Reggie Whitehouse, Secretary
New Castle Board of Fire Wards

Draft Minutes Submitted: January 16, 2015
Minutes Approved: February 10, 2015