



Town of New Castle, NH

Board of Fire Wards

Minutes of June 17, 2014 Meeting

(Session Recorded * Indicating Discussion Timeframe)

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

In Attendance: Chief David Blanding, NCFD, Jim Rini, Dave McGuckin, Bill Cronin, Peter Rice, Mark Wooley, Bill, Naugle, Teddy Golter, Terri Golter LaMontagne, Andy Schulte

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dinsmore at 1600 hrs.

A motion was made by Whitehouse to approve the draft minutes from the April 8th 2014 without correction. Seconded by Dinsmore. Motion passed.

Fire Ward's report: No report at this time

Fire Chief's report:

1. *1 of 2 From 6:50 to 15:05
2. Blanding sent a letter to Fire Wards on April 11, 2014 concerning NCFD staffing issues and is requesting a response.
3. On June 6, 2014 Blanding sent an email to everyone on the NCFD and Cohen notifying that there is a downgrade for minimum staffing and qualifications on a vehicle response from three people to two people due to extreme lack of personnel responding to calls
4. NCFD has two new members; 1.) Brently Childs, paramedic student and 2.) Jack qualified EMT
5. Fire boat is in service for more than a month and is located at the Wentworth Marina dock
6. All department members have been issued new picture ID cards that are also card access to the fire station exterior doors
7. There will be a series of Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant drills schedule throughout the year with June 18, 2014 being the first; a Table Top drill being attended by Teddy Golter and Andy Schulte
8. Engine 4 received additional repairs for the compressed air/foam system due to not draining the air tank system after use. Repairs were made by Minuteman in Casco, ME for \$1,800.00
9. There are four priority items that will be scheduled for completion during the summer 2014; 1.) Hose testing, 2.) Ladder Testing, 3.) Training Records update and shingle the roof of the "old fire station"
10. March 2014, New Castle Historical Society asked NCFD to present the history of the fire department to the members and presentation is scheduled for August 17, 2014.
11. Bill Naugle and Bill Cronin have developed a public information session presentation, the first of many to be presented on June 17, 2014 at 1900 in the Public Safety Building. Notifications and invitations have been posted and delivered.
12. NCFD has replaced the 10 year old PC in the Communications Room with a new model.

13. On May 15, 2014 an engine was dispatched to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for a scheduled fire drill on a submarine.
14. Rye Fire Department has placed the NCFD Forestry vehicle on their running card for a first alarm request on all woods and brush fires.
15. Portsmouth Fire Department has placed the NCFD Forestry vehicle on their running card for a second alarm request on all woods and brush fires.

Select Board's liaison report: No report at this time

1. *1 of 2 From 15:15 to 26:30
2. Cohen had questions for Blanding regarding the repairs made to Engine 4.
3. Cohen had questions for Blanding regarding hose testing and new hose purchase.
4. Cohen had questions for Blanding regarding E911 notifications and how to inform New Castle residence of the notification options.
5. Cohen had a statement regarding the Executive Session protocol and Meeting Minutes.
6. Dinsmore informed Cohen that the method of initiating and Executive Session on May 27, 2014 was not followed properly by RSA standards.

Unfinished business: No report at this time

New business

1. *1 of 2 From 27:00 to 27:45
2. Whitehouse informed McGuckin that the "AH" has not been removed from the fire hydrant and asked that he (McGuckin) check into the status of the removal.

Announcements

1. *1 of 2 From 28:00 to 28:30
2. As part of the Fire Wards continuing efforts to recruit new members for the NCFD, applications available to anyone who is interested, NCFD's Volunteer Firefighter and EMS

Public Deliberation

1. *1 of 2 From 29:10 to 52:50
2. McGuckin asked Blanding about the E911; Emergency notification is initiated for New Castle emergencies only and can only be authorized by the Police and Fire chiefs.
3. McGuckin asked Blanding about the status of NCFD website. Cohen recommended that the fire department utilize the services of Virtual Town Hall for future services.
4. McGuckin discussed the status of Naugle staying at the Public Safety Building (PSB) overnight, based on a letter dated October 2012, and agreed that his (Naugle) staying at the PSB was a benefit to the Town of New Castle, stating that there is no issue with individuals bunking at the fire station as long as the NCFD policy is followed.

Upcoming Fire Ward's meeting

July 8, 2014 here at the Public Safety Building from 4:00 – 5:00PM

Fire Ward Final Comments

1. *1 of 2 From 53:15 to 1:02:00
2. *2 of 2 From 00:00 to 10:00
3. Frampton is saddened about the problems facing the NCFD due to the lack of new volunteers applying to the department, insufficient staffing of firefighters causing policy adjustments, and wants to rectify the problems as a group (i.e. Firewards, Select Board, firefighters and residence) by revisiting the Chief's proposal for funding weekend station coverage.
4. Whitehouse stated that without the policy adjustments made by the Chief, approving fewer firefighters to respond to emergency calls, the NCFD would not have been able to respond to a recent emergency call.

5. McGuckin reinforced the need for continued NCFD efforts in volunteer recruitment and interaction with the community.
6. Dinsmore reinforced the efforts made by the NCFD in positively positioning the department with the community by organizing their annual Open House, Pancake Breakfast, Santa Clause Christmas Eve, Easter Bunny Run, Independence Day Cookout and stated, in his opinion, that the town's disapproval of the NCFD was manufactured by a handful of individuals and not the attitude of the vast majority of New Castle residences.
7. Cohen and Blanding are working jointly to produce a long range Fire Department Strategic Plan and will be forming a sub-committee selected from the Fire Wards, the Select Board liaison and the Fire Department to serve on the team. If there is a resident that has a particular skill or expertise that would be of value to the team, there is a possibility that he/she would be invited to participate. All stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input but it will be an internal Fire Department document.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1710 hrs. by Whitehouse and seconded by Dinsmore. The vote was unanimous.

Reggie Whitehouse, Secretary
New Castle Board of Fire Wards

Draft Minutes Submitted: June 20, 2014
Minutes Approved: August 12, 2014