

Board of Fire Wards Town of New Castle, NH

Minutes of 11 March 2014 Meeting

Present: Chairman Dennis Dinsmore, Fire Ward Reg Whitehouse, Fire Ward Carl Roediger

In Attendance: Selectperson Lorn Buxton, Chief David Blanding, Capt Teddy Golter

The meeting was called to order by Dinsmore at 1602 hrs.

A motion was made by Whitehouse to approve the draft minutes from the 11 February 2014 meeting without correction. Seconded by Dinsmore. Motion passed.

Chief's Agenda Items

Chief Blanding reported that he was asked to attend a recent Budget Committee meeting concerning the proposed FY15 budget. He reported that he was concerned about comments made by the Committee Chairman concerning "outsourcing the fire department". It is hoped that this comment is not indicative of any hidden plan or agenda.

The Chief was also concerned about feedback that he has received from Department members that members of the Budget Committee are actively campaigning against particular line items in the proposed budget (weekend coverage) as well as the need for future apparatus purchases. There appears to be no comprehension of the number of volunteer hours that are being spent by members at the Department.

The next meeting of the Budget Committee is March 18 at 5:00pm.

The Emergency Notification System is now operational for the Town. The Chief is the designated Point of Contact and the Police Chief is the alternate. Either one can initiate a message by contacting the State and entering a message to be transmitted. Residents will need to sign up through their carriers to be able to receive the messages as texts and e-mails. Details on how to sign up will be posted on the Town's website. There is no cost to the Town for this service.

The Department's website is no longer visible. There was discussion on whether the Department should have their own site or be a subpage on the Town's website.

The first round of Department ID cards has been issued.

Chairman Dinsmore

The Chairman asked the Chief when he anticipated the Fire Boat would be placed back in service. The Boat is ready to be launched and will be returned to the water when the weather breaks.

The filing period for elected positions in Town government opens towards the end of March.

Old Business

None

New Business

None.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2014 @ 4:00pm at the New Castle Fire Station. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1645 hrs by Dinsmore and seconded by Whitehouse. The vote was unanimous.

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

Minutes Approved: 4/8/14