



# Town of New Castle, NH

## Board of Fire Wards

### Approved Minutes of September 09, 2014 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, Jim Rini, Tom Smith, Dave McGuckin, Bill Cronin, Teddy Golter, Mark Wooley, Terri Golter, Bill Naugle, Sean LaMontagne

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 August 12, 2014 without correction. Seconded by Frampton. Motion passed.

Fire Ward's Report: No report at this time

Fire Chief's Report:

1. NCFD presented a History of the Fire Department to the New Castle, NH Historical Society in the Public Safety Building with 30 people attending. Four past and present Fire Chief's spoke and it was very well received. An additional advertised Public Affairs presentation was made by Capt. Bill Cronin and Firefighter Erin Kelly the following week, detailing the current operations of the NCFD. Three individuals were in attendance.
2. NCFD conducted wildlands fire training on Leachs Island starting at 1630 with six firefighters, leaving from E Dock at Wentworth Marina. Capt. Bill Cronin and crew arrived at dead low tide, cutting a three foot wide fire break, approx. 300 feet. Five EMTs were onsite to conduct rehabilitation of team members and be available in the event of injury.
3. The three month total for additional volunteer hours, beyond training and Fire/EMT calls, was reported to be 179 hours. Only 11 of the 28 members filled out time cards.
4. NCFD participated in the first of three Seabrook Station emergency training drills held at the NCFD Public Safety Building.
5. A new recruit, Sean LaMontagne, joined the NCFD department.
6. The New Castle Volunteer Firefighters Association will be organizing a Fund Raiser to purchase a LUCAS™ Chest Compression System for the NCFD. The LUCAS Chest Compression System (LUCAS) is designed to deliver uninterrupted compressions at a consistent rate and depth to facilitate Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC). It delivers automated compressions from first response in the field to ambulance transport and throughout the hospital. LUCAS facilitates consistent blood flow from the moment it is turned on, helping to improve a patient's chance for a successful outcome. The approximate cost is \$14,450.00
7. For the upcoming anniversary of 9-11, Chief Blanding is requesting NCFD members to report to the station for additional manpower as a precautionary measure. The general public is also welcome to participate.
8. Chief Blanding will investigate the possibility of having the Town of New Castle issue payments to the volunteers twice a year, adding December, as opposed to one check at the end of the fiscal year in June.
9. On October 15<sup>th</sup> there is a training class, in Dover, NH being presented by Billy Goldfeder on "Firefighter Survival" for \$30.00 per attendee.
10. Insurance Services Office (ISO) has contacted Chief Blanding to notify the department that the ISO will be conducting an evaluation of the NCFD and the town's water system for insurance ratings of homeowner's

property/casualty insurance risk. The present ISO rating for the Town of New Castle scores a 5.8 on a scale of 1 to 10.

Select Board's Liaison Report:

1. The Route 1B Bridge, near the Wentworth Hotel, is scheduled for replacement in 2018 and Chief Blanding has presented positive information regarding his preference for a fixed bridge and not a bascule bridge (commonly referred to as a drawbridge), identifying the primary reason for his choice due to the ease of supporting a sizeable water main for the town. Cohen stated that New Castle is contemplating support for a fixed bridge based on input from Chief Blanding and the City of Portsmouth. A final decision is pending.
2. Cohen stated that the discussions with the City of Portsmouth for the acquisition of the town's water and sewer system are advancing, and the Select Board is in favor of moving forward with negotiations.
3. NCFD's website link is functional on the Town's webpage and Chief Blanding is in favor of transferring the hosting of the NCFD webpages over to Virtual Tow Hall.
4. As discussed last meeting, Cohen has requested that the NCFD (Chief Blanding) review the engineering plans of the proposed Town Hall renovations and become involved with the specification process to insure NFPA code compliance. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM for the Town Hall Renovation Committee and the Town Hall Building Committee. It is anticipated that there will be a presentation for vote on Town Hall renovations at the next Town Meeting in 2015.
5. Cohen brought to the attention of Chief Blanding that there are several homes in town that do not have street numbers visible from their road and is concerned for individuals' safety in emergency situations. Chief Blanding stated that the NCPD is tasked with compiling a list of homes throughout the town that have not complied with the house numbering request and responsible for enforcement.

Unfinished Business: None at this time

New Business:

1. Frampton stated that his mother, Joanne Ireland, publishes a church newsletter in conjunction with the New Castle Congregational Church and is willing to assist the NCFD in presenting information about the department to the town by publishing articles in the newsletter.

Announcements:

1. Dinsmore stated that the New Hampshire Fire & Emergency Medical Services Committee of Merit has selected the NCFD to receive an award at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Awards & Recognition Presentation awards ceremony in Concord, NH on Monday, September 29, 2014. Names and particular awards will not be announced until the presentations are made. Department members will be attending the ceremony.

Public Deliberation

1. Cronin addressed a question to Cohen; When the Town gives away plant like that (the water and sewer system) is the Town required to have a vote, and is it a simple majority or super majority? Cohen was unsure and will provide the answer after she consults with the Town's attorney.
2. McGuckin asked what exactly do the Fire Wards do? The Chief does an excellent job of running the department, what is the value of the Fire Wards and what are their roles? Dinsmore agreed to provide McGuckin with a detailed description for the role of the Board of Fire Wards.
3. Smith spoke to the issue of Fire Wards and parroted McGuckin's concerns.

Upcoming Fire Ward's Meeting

1. October 14, 2014 at the Public Safety Building from 4:00 – 5:00PM

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1652 hrs. by Whitehouse and seconded by Frampton. The vote was unanimous.

Reggie Whitehouse, Secretary  
New Castle Board of Fire Wards

Draft Minutes Submitted: September 18, 2014  
Minutes Approved: October 14, 2014