

**New Durham Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting ~ September 30, 2011
Fire Station Community Room**

Members Present: Theresa Jarvis, David Bickford, Jeffrey Kratovil

Also Present: Town Administrator (TA) Alison (Rendinaro) Webb; Fire Chief Peter Varney, Deputy Fire Chief Kenneth Lockwood, Lakes Region Coordinator Chief Hayes, Lt. Jon Roy, Videographer Mary McHale; Baysider reporter Tim Croes, Foster's reporter Danielle Curtis

Call to Order – Chairperson Terry Jarvis called the meeting to order at 9:00AM

The Board of Selectmen met to discuss the Town of New Durham's future participation with Lakes Region Mutual Aid Fire Association (LRMFA).

Chief Varney explained to the Board that it came to his attention early in the week that on top of the yearly increase the town will see for the services of LRMFA, there will also be an increase to fund some of the organization's new Capital Improvement projects over a period of five years. The Chief and Deputy Chief felt it prudent to look into alternatives for the service, as the cost was so high. He also reiterated that the meeting was asked to be held today, because Monday, October 3rd, marked the 90 day window that the Town has to withdraw from the organization without paying the full amount of the following year, according to the Bylaws and Articles of the Association Article 2, Section 4.

Chief Hayes from LRMFA explained to the Board in detail the upcoming Capital Improvement Projects and the fact that LRMFA has applied for grant funding for these projects. He explained that the Board of Directors has authorized Chief Hayes to bring the 90 day window down to 60 days for the town, taking away the immediate urgency to make a decision. The Town has until November 2nd, the next meeting date of the Board of Directors, to make their decision without the threat of paying 2012 fees. He explained that the Board of Directors did not want the decision to be reactionary.

Chief Hayes provided a description of what services are provided to the Town by LRFMA, and what the organization offers through their Mutual Aid agreements.

Deputy Chief Kenneth Lockwood explained that he was tasked, along with Chief Varney, to look into the alternative dispatch Service for the town, which is Strafford County Dispatch. The Deputy said that although, if given the choice, he would stay with Lakes Region. However, the cost savings to the town would be a minimum of \$103,000 over five years by moving to Strafford County. That kind of cost savings cannot be ignored.

The discussion between the Board of Selectmen, Chief Varney, Deputy Chief Lockwood, and Chief Hayes continued. The Board of Selectmen are looking for a stronger opinion from the Fire Department Chief and Deputy Chief, as to whether this is the right move for the Town. As the Board of Selectmen have some time now to consider their options, they will contemplate the information before them, and make arrangements to visit each facility.

The Board of Selectmen will meet again on Monday, October 3rd, at 6PM for a meeting with

Town Counsel, and meet for a public session at 7PM.

**Motion to adjourn made by Chair Jarvis, seconded by Selectmen Bickford. 3-0
Meeting adjourned at 11:51AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Alison Webb

A video recording of this meeting is on file with the Office of Town Clerk, is available for public viewing during normal business hours, and will be retained in accordance with the New Hampshire Municipal Records Board rules established under RSA 33-A:4, or for a minimum of 24 months.