

**Board of Firewards
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 2017**

The meeting took place at the Fire House. The minutes of both the January meeting and February's 'Non-Public Session' were accepted. In attendance were: Steve Ensign, John Ryan, Pete Lauridsen, and Doug Lyon, Chief: Jason Lyon, and Clerk: Amy Lyon. Absent: Karen Hoglund.

Items for Discussion: Board introductions were made for Corey Bartlett, the new fulltime hire. Explanations for how and why the Board of Firewards came about were shared. So far he's working out very well.

The department has been busy with both calls and trainings. Being that Corey is new, he has a list of proficiencies he needs to accomplish within a few months, and therefore he's been training with different members. Because of this situation, Jay would like to continue with the per diem arrangement to aid in further training and a smooth transition to him being independent. Corey is completing his EMT Advanced level training this month. Because his classes have conflicted with our meeting and training nights, he has not been able to meet the required attendance expectations so he could be voted upon by the company.

The current number of year-to-date calls we've responded to is 291, and some of them have been quite complicated. Jay described the Springfield power plant fire. Unlike the last one that took place in a silo, this one was inside the main building, and access was hampered by the height of the building, thick smoke, and members having to crawl across catwalks. Crews from as far away as Hanover and Lebanon were called upon to respond with personnel and other apparatus. Questions were asked and answered about how to find injured firefighters if needed in a large building such as a warehouse.

Another serious incident that took place in Wilmot was discussed. Our department was called to assist with a house that exploded and continued to burn. More information should be available at the next meeting once the investigation is complete.

John Ryan shared the Pleasant Lake Protective Association's plan to send out a notice regarding their regulations and how to be "neighborly." The Town of New London has a noise ordinance, however does not currently have any regulations regarding firework permitting unlike Sunapee or Newbury. Chief Lyon met with Peter Wynship and John Wilson, and said that he would support some sort of ordinance, with the understanding that it could potentially create more work for various town employees, which in turn might come with an added cost. One of the biggest considerations is how far from buildings the fireworks should be lit. The Board will be updated with future decisions having to do with fireworks.

The condition of a specific residence in town was discussed. Jay has met with Lucy St. John, the zoning administrator, Kim Halquist, the Town Administrator, and Deb Langner, the Health Officer, to talk about the condition of the structure. Jay's biggest concern is safety of the occupant. Because the building is not weather-tight, there is potential for an electrical fire to start. Jay has drafted a letter to the homeowner with a timeline for what needs to take place within the next three months and will be checking to see if there's any progress.

Jay gave an update about the Dispatch Center. Things are going well, and the communication tower on Sunapee has been approved, however the source of the repeater funding is yet to be determined. Kim Halquist, Ed Anderson, Steve Ensign, and Jay Lyon are planning to meet soon to discuss further issues.

The truck committee met this past week and there were three companies which submitted bids to build the new engine/tanker. Unfortunately, Valley Fire has gone out of business, so the choices had been narrowed down to two; E-One and Ferrara. The committee was leaning towards E-One, as they were the lowest bid. If this company is chosen, Jay suggested we prepay for the building of the apparatus, so as to save about \$11,500. Jay suggested that a letter be drafted to the Town Selectboard supporting the prepayment option.

There will be a meeting of the budget committee next week. We are currently over budget on part-time wages by \$3,800. The reason is Jay didn't plan on having to pay per diem members to help train two

new hires within the same fiscal year. It was decided that those additional funds be requested because of the unforeseen issues. Jay estimates that the total overage will be about \$10,500. Doug Lyon inquired what NLF D's total budget is this year, and what's been approved for next. Those figures are about \$362,000 and just under \$400,000 respectively.

Pete Lauridsen asked how much the department is affected by the latest heroin, carfentanyl, etc. problem. Although we don't have the level of response to these types of calls like the larger cities, we have responded to an overdose in New London within the last month. We, along with surrounding police, fire, and EMS agencies, will receive additional training with narcan on June 6.

We adjourned at 5:32 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lyon