

## Board of Firewards – Town of New London Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm with the following board members in attendance: Pete Lauridsen, Doug Lyon, John Ryan, Karen Hogle, and Steve Ensign. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Jason Lyon and Selectboard member Nancy Rollins, Clerk Kyla Pillsbury. Upon recommendation by Steve Ensign, and no objection from the Board, the minutes of the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved by consensus.

### Discussion items:

- Tonight's meeting was held as a hybrid of a Zoom meeting and in-person.
- Recent Activity and Training-
  - Year to date NLFD is at 134 calls which is typical for this time of year. There have been a lot of fires recently though.
    - There was a dumpster fire at Dunkin Donuts and that resulted in some damage to the garage and Chadwicks, but thanks to the rapid response it was well contained. When this call came in New London was covering Springfield from NLFD while they were at a fire in Enfield. Luckily the coverage was from our own station allowing for a prompt response.
    - Vehicle fire in Sunapee with exposure to a garage-New London was the first arriving apparatus.
    - Explosion in Bradford was very substantial and is still under investigation. Smoke was visible from 4 corners in New London. This was a defensive operations fire and NLFD's ladder was great for this purpose and we were able to utilize the remote monitor from the ladder pipe eliminating the need for personnel to man the stick the entire time. OSHA and the NHSFMO were on scene at this call as well. Discussion ensued about propane powered vehicles- generally speaking propane is safe, but when things go wrong it can be catastrophic.
    - Routine calls, cardiac arrests, overdose
- Mike Matthey was at a lift assist recently and tore his biceps muscle. He had surgery about a week and a half ago. He will have his post op review later this week and if he is cleared he will be able to return to doing his inspections!
- Chief Lyon did some research following the last meeting about keeping the former car1. Steve Ensign discussed how there are multiple individuals who have training in Concord, or elsewhere and they take their own personal vehicles. At this time, we have not reimbursed for mileage. Karen Hogle asked that when it was proposed to get a new vehicle was there any stipulation that we would sell the old vehicle – no. Some pros for keeping the vehicle-additional vehicle for training outside of town, enabling another vehicle during weather related events, less use of personal vehicles when a support vehicle would be more useful, ability to shuttle personnel back and forth from a scene, as well as limiting wear and tear to the larger apparatus when it isn't necessary. Some of the cons-where would it be kept-no room in the station so it would have to be stored outside, greater maintenance costs, and what are the optics to the town?

Would we be able to clearly justify the need to keep the vehicle in a way that would make sense to the town? Jay noted that a level I class would be over \$2000 in reimbursement if it were held in Concord, \$658 for an EMT class in Plymouth and \$152 for a weekend dive class in Hanover. Nancy is going to look into the reimbursement rules across the board within the town to determine what it is for other employees. Doug Lyon asked if there is ever a time where members are reluctant to take a class or cost prohibited from doing so due to having to use their own vehicle. With rising fuel costs, this is not out of the question. We want to ensure that we aren't causing a huge change within the town, but if there is a benefit from keeping the old Car1, then we justify this need to the town and maintain it accordingly.

- The department will vote on fire officers at their April Company meeting. At this time Chief Lyon recommended appointing Park Adams as Deputy Chief again. He reminded that there will be an additional Captains position added to the bylaws. He recommended that Geoff Daley be the Operations Captain and Mike Matthey be the Fire Prevention Captain. A motion was made and seconded to move the positions as outlined above. The three present at the department voted in favor of this and Doug Lyon and Steve Ensign abstained from the vote due to being virtual. This motion was approved.
- Town Meeting will be held Wednesday evening. Masks are recommended, but not required.
- Duties and Responsibilities document will be reviewed at the next meeting-any suggestions at this time can be given to Jay and he will get them to Steve.

Other Business:

- An executive or non-public session (RSA 91-A:3) was not held tonight.

Next meeting:

- The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, May 2 at 4:30pm.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm

Minutes Recorded By Kyla Pillsbury, Clerk.