

Board of Firewards – Town of New London Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:31pm with the following board members in attendance: Pete Lauridsen, Doug Lyon, John Ryan, Karen Hoglund, and Steve Ensign. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Jason Lyon, Alternate Bill Degnan, Selectboard member Nancy Rollins, and Clerk Kyla Pillsbury. Upon recommendation by Steve Ensign, a motion was made passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 6th meeting were approved as posted.

Agenda items:

- Introduction of Bill Degnan to the board occurred-Bill was the former State Fire Marshal and has retired to New London. Bill has had his name in with the Selectboard as an interested individual for the Board of Firewards. Since the board is currently full, Bill will be learning about the Board and the operations while being an alternate. Bill started his career as a call firefighter in Merrimack, continued to Exeter prior to joining the SFMO where he concluded his career.
- General Reviews and Updates-
 - NLFD is at 417 calls to date for 2022. On track in comparison to numbers from 2021
 - 46 general alarms thus far this year.
 - With the higher costs of fuel there are concerns that people will be using alternate heating sources, green wood, ovens, etc. The demand for services could be on the rise this fall with these unique heating sources being used. Chief Lyon intends to talk about smoke detectors, chimney cleanings, etc. through use of municipal matters.
 - It was suggested to make some awareness posters with contact information for fuel assistance. This could be a tactful method to get information to the public and work jointly with Celeste. Having a handout for safety tips for when Celeste sits down with people could be helpful as well.
 - Mutual aid calls-kitchen fire in Newbury.
 - Storm last Tuesday brought calls for trees and wires down as well as a missing paddle boarder from Bucklin Beach.
 - The crew got a description of the individual, launched the boat, and had crews drive around the lake quite promptly. A lifejacket was located, but was quickly confirmed that it was not the missing individuals. Marine patrol was contacted and did a sweep as well. There was a significant search done with no findings-no paddle board and no individual. The town acted swiftly to change protocols as far as use of paddle boards/town beach owned items.
 - The department has been working through RIT training as well as other operations using the Reichold building at Colby-Sawyer. The final demolition of Reichold will be in August so that will be when the training there will conclude. Additional trainings include some rescue operations with the stokes basket off the ladder.

- Recent inspections that have taken place:
 - New London Barn Playhouse-SFMO came through and there are a couple of outstanding items, but for the most part the items from June have been handled appropriately. The current Fire Marshal was able to come do a walk-through prior to the shows starting this season.
 - Lake Sunapee Country Club-in 2007 the LSCC did a phase 1 of a 2 phase project. In 2007 there were some concessions made with the expectations that phase 2 would be happening the following year in 2008. The 2nd phase of this project has yet to take place. There are some concerns with the fire alarm and sprinkler system given current code compliance. Mike has been working with them through some code compliance items. Meetings took place in March to give time for fixes to be put in place. Due to things not having been fixed, a certified letter was sent with a 3 week timeline. The big concern is life safety at this point, minimum code compliance to be followed, the intention is certainly not to shut down any business.
- Draft Discussion of Budget Preparation
 - There will be a final review of the budget at our September meeting.
 - For reference on the printout, 110-290 are items from the finance department and they deal with personnel costs. 341-692 are essentially the operating budget. Please review the draft at your leisure and if there are questions or concerns, please reach out to Chief Lyon. Worth noting is that the equipment maintenance is seeing an increase since there have been some issues with Engine 2. Once that engine is replaced we should be able to drop that line down again. PPE has increased exponentially recently as well for the department to purchase.
 - The question was posted for where we are at with our fuel budget. At this point the department is in good shape. The town does much of the fuel consumption review.
 - The budget committee has reached out to setup a time to come either last week of July or first week of August. That visit will include a tour of the department as well as discussion of what the department does/how the department does it/what the department needs to do their jobs.
- Board of Selectman Activity-
 - Whipple Hall project team is going to start, but it is slow due to supply chain issues. It is anticipated that The BOS will return there in September. Elections in September will be TBD as far as location.
 - Safe roads and 25mph speed limits have been hot topic discussions. There are some suggestions that are being compiled to determine what can be done to slow folks down. There is an education piece to this as well as far as safe walking habits. Bunker road has been repeatedly brought up and there are also other roads in town being looked at as well.
- Pre-build review of Engine 2 occurred in Hamburg, NY at the manufacturing facility. Deputy Chief Park Adams brought a crew out in his plane. There are about 2 dozen modifications to the spec after the visit to increase safety and functionality.
- Hospital Day Activities-there will be an open house held at the department. The challenge this year is that the parade is being held in the morning so the open house will need to occur after

that and participation will also be expected in the parade. The muster idea was abandoned due to lack of availability from mutual aid towns. Discussion ensued about doing the muster at a later date-perhaps as part of fire prevention week.

- New Fireworks Ordinance has not been met with resistance or concerns at this point.
- Chief Lyon's evaluation is coming up, so a reminder from Steve to the board to pay attention to email for thoughts.
- The question was posed as to how the town population has been impacted since COVID. The thought was that families have headed back to where they came from if it was a temporary fix, but there are certainly individuals who have relocated more permanently to this area. The area is busy currently!

Other Business:

- An executive or non-public session (RSA 91-A:3) was held tonight.
 - Immediately following the brief executive session, it was moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Bill Degan be appointed as an 'alternate member' of the Board of Firewards.

Next meeting:

- The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, September 12th at 4:30pm.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm

Minutes Recorded By Kyla Pillsbury, Clerk.