

Board of Firewards – Town of New London
Draft Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm with the following board members in attendance: Pete Lauridsen, John Ryan, and Steve Ensign. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Jason Lyon and Clerk Kyla Pillsbury. Upon recommendation by Steve Ensign, a motion was made passed unanimously to approve and accept the minutes of the July 18th meeting were approved as posted.

Agenda items:

- General Updates and Activities-
 - Just below 560 calls year to date. Although calls have been busy, we have not had anything serious, but there was a call recently for a dog who caught under the brake pedal. This was a larger dog and there was cribbing and a pry bar used to get the dog removed without damage to the vehicle or the dog. Calls have been steady, some days with multiple back-to-back calls.
- Recent Inspection Results-
 - Chief Lyon updated the Board on recent inspections as well as a local business in town. Conversations with the property owner have taken place and there is still progress being made to ensure that the violations are rectified.
 - The Chief Fireward Ensign wanted to make sure that the Town was not opening themselves up to liability. Jay advised, although there are code issues, the property owner is working toward a resolution, the town should be protected. Captain Matthy will send an additional letter in October and give a solid deadline of when things are to be completed. The department is doing their due diligence to ensure that code compliance is being enforced and followed.
- Discussion of Proposed Budget Submission
 - The vehicle line item will be recommended to increase from 22,100 to 26,200. Uniform line item increased due to cost of PPE currently (from 19,500 to 20,500). Fuel increased from 8,000-14,000. The operating costs of the department have increased about \$11,000-primarily driven by the above line items.
 - On call pay may experience an increase the near future. The recommendation was that \$40/night to \$50/night and \$100/weekend. This would hopefully show appreciation for the officers taking call and perhaps encourage some to take call more frequently.
 - Car 2 will need a set of winter tires and regular maintenance. Having this vehicle available has been helpful and it is used regularly, including weekends. This vehicle is the primary vehicle for water responses with the boat. This has also allowed members to use this to attend trainings, allowing the command vehicle remained in service.
 - The ratified budget needs to be submitted this week. The Town Administrator understands that there are some changes that may need to take place during this meeting. Chief will be looking to ensure that the numbers are all correct prior to submission, but the Board is comfortable with the line items the way that they stand- they support the submission.

- The Board made a motion to support the budget as proposed with verification of the line items. This was seconded and approved unanimously.
- NH Grant for PPE and Radios-
 - 3 radios are at Ossipee Mountain-there are still some parts that we are awaiting on to have the full component for functioning.
 - PPE has been received.
 - Equipment needs to be received by 12/31/22 for it to be covered by the grant.
 - Worth noting is that this year the radios that were received from 9/11 grants will be fully replaced.
- Board of Selectman Activity-
 - Nancy Rollins was not in attendance-no report.
- General Discussions-
 - Issue of alternates for Board of Firewards-this discussion was to be tabled until the next meeting. To preface, a section will need to be removed or amended.
 - Review of Hospital Day Activities-the parade in the morning had decent participation, but following that there was minimal attendance at the Open House.
 - Patriots Day remembrance - very successful with great turnout.
 - New Fireworks Ordinance-the biggest question was what should happen if 4th of July is on a week day, is it celebrated before or after. The fear is that this will be a challenge to enforce, but it will be interesting to see what transpires in the future.
- Other Business
 - A non-public session under (RSA 91-A:3) was duly called and held at 5:17pm. The Board came out of the non-public session at 5:29pm and voted to sequester the minutes until such discussion becomes generally available to the public.

Next meeting:

- The next meeting of the Board will be October 17th at 4:30pm.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:32pm

Minutes Recorded By Kyla Pillsbury, Clerk.