

Alstead Emergency Management Study Group March 5, 2015 Meeting

People Present:

Ed Reller – committee member
Marge Noonan – committee member
Anne Cartwright – committee member
Priscilla Sawa – committee member
Carol Reller – committee member
Kim Kercewich – Chief, Fire Department
Marcello D’Alessandro – Police chief and committee member
Chris Rietmann – Select Board
Joel McCarty – Select Board
Matt Saxton - Select Board

Topics Discussed:

- Introductions were made as everyone introduced themselves. It was noted that that three other members of the public had expressed an interest in joining the committee but could not attend tonight. We also discussed how the membership of the committee might vary as we move from one area (department) to another.
- Carol brought up that a citizen mentioned a different name for the committee should be used as “EMS” typically refers to emergency medical services.
- The potential tasks of the committee were discussed. Briefly, these were:
 - Police Department (PD) – how do we help replace the police chief and what do we really want/need as a town for a PD. The Select Board (SB) has requested input on this with a target report date of June 1, 2015.
 - Emergency Management – FEMA makes more demands each year. Clarence would like to retire. Will this continue as a volunteer job or does the town need to create a paid position for this.
 - Fire and Ambulance – Volunteers are becoming harder to recruit and equipment is getting older. How do we provide adequate coverage going forward?
- Carol agreed to take minutes for this meeting and Priscilla agreed to take minutes at future meetings.
- Chris and Joel explained RS 91-A.
- We discussed regionalization versus mutual aid to clarify what each of these were and how they are currently utilized by the town. Mutual aid is for emergencies only, but regionalization is the planned sharing of resources among towns.
- It was noted that a part-time clerk for the PD has been hired and started this week.
- A detailed conversation of the PD then ensued.

- Coverage for the town is predominantly day shifts worked by Officer Landry who also is working up to 20 hours of overtime a week. The Chief puts in about 10 hours a week in the evening. Weekends and late evenings are covered by the State Police.
- We are not charged for current coverage or back up by the Sheriff 's Office or the State Police.
- If we wanted a trooper to be stationed in our town for coverage, the cost runs about \$70/hour.
- Police statistics for the last 4 years were reviewed. "Calls for service" are calls requiring little documentation or follow up. An "incident offense" requires a report and charges may or may not be filed. "Citation violations" involve motor vehicle stops with a warning and/or ticket.
- Staffing of the PD's in surrounding towns was also discussed. Acworth, Marlow and Surry have no town PD. Langdon has a part-time police chief, while Walpole has four full-time and 7 part-time police.
- Mention was also made of CT Valley Crime Stoppers and the potential for using "neighborhood watch".
- The question was asked about what it costs the town to staff a police department with two full time officers including benefits and pensions.
- We discussed future meeting times to make it more convenient for others to attend. No decision was made on routine times and dates.

Action items for the next meeting:

- Marcello will try to get any numbers/statistics for calls covered by the State Police.
- Matt will get the numbers for what it costs the town to staff a police department with two full time officers including benefits and pensions.
- Marcello will share his job description with us.
- Marcello will provide the number of arrests made in 2011 and 2012 along with the motor vehicle citations for 2014.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2015, Town Offices 7 PM

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Review and approval of minutes
- Old business/action items
- Committee format, members
- New business
- Comments and open discussion
- Any comments from the "public"
- Set next meeting date and time
- Adjourn meeting

