

Emergency Management Study Group

Minutes for the September 9, 2015 meeting

Members in attendance:

Bonnie Chase
Carol Reller
Priscilla Sawa

Also present:

Kim Kercewich
George Moore
Matt Goodell
Les Thomas

Old action items:

- No call back yet from either contractor about the Village Station door.
- The seminar on FEMA grant-writing is next week.

Search for a new police chief:

- One candidate for the Police Chief position has been selected to take the physical exam and fitness test, and after that, to submit to a background check, polygraph, and so forth. The Hiring Committee also liked one of the other two candidates, but had reservations because that candidate is not currently living in NH.

Report from the FD's Truck Committee

The FD's Truck Committee recommends buying a combo pumper-rescue.

- **Cons:** the rescue equipment is not at the scene if the truck is assigned elsewhere.
- **Pros:** Much lower cost than two individual rigs; reduced maintenance costs and time; single rig response to MVAs; requires less manpower than two separate rigs; cascade, lighting and tools are right at the scene when used as first due engine; charged hose line easily available when run as rescue to MVAs.

Next steps

- The next step is to discuss detailed specs and get quotes from the two local companies — Valley Fire (Bradford, NH) and Dingee (Cornish, NH).
- At the same time, the committee will look into second-hand equipment and also look at the combos in current use in nearby towns.

- We can probably sell the rescue truck and the pumper and bring in some revenue.
- In the past, when we ordered new equipment in the spring, we received it in the fall.

Other topics discussed

- Regarding maintenance of current equipment, we average \$8000 a year in repairs. We have maintenance records back to 2000 or so.
- According to a lawyer for the town of North Walpole, the mutual aid contract with Charlestown requires that Alstead bear responsibility for its personnel and equipment, regardless of whether their trucks come here or ours go there. N Walpole, Langdon and Acworth have all signed this contract. Not including brush fires, Alstead FD responds to a fire in Charlestown once every two years, and they come here about the same number of times.

Motions:

- The meeting minutes of August 27 were approved.

Action items:

- Carol will contact the Select Board regarding the mutual aid contract with Charlestown.
- Carol will send Priscilla the email addresses for Kim, Matt and George.
- George will send Carol the baseline specs and the list of pros and cons drawn up by the FD Truck Committee, and Carol will forward them to the committee.
- George will find out what other towns have combos so that we can take a look.
- The FD Truck Committee will meet with Valley Fire and get more detailed specs and prices. Carol would also like to attend.
- Carol will solicit bids from commercial contractors for the Alstead Station door.
- George and Carol will attend the FEMA grant-writing class at the Keene Firehouse on September 17 at 6:00 pm.

Next meeting:

Both date and place are TBD.

Agenda items for next meeting:

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Comments from the public:

- None.