

Fire Advisory Committee
Thursday April 25, 2019
Station 81 - Community

MINUTES

Present: Kim Austin, Chair
Kyle Cimochoowski, West Thompson
Steve Bodreau, Quinebaug
Matt Grauer, Thompson Hill
John Sharpe, Community
Firefighters - 3 members
Selectman - Steve Herbert
Mark Petrone via telephone

Absent: Jeff Sheldon, East Thompson
Community Member, Vacant

1. Call to Order at 19:11
2. Approval of March minutes
 - a. Motion to approve by Kyle Cimochoowski
 - b. Second by Steve Bodreau
 - c. Aye - 5 Nay - 0 Absent - 2
3. Review of E-mail Updates
 - a. All present Chief's have reviewed the e-mail from 4/2/19
 - i. Item 1 - Budget Meeting with BOF
 1. This meeting has already taken place and will be discussed later in tonight's meeting
 - ii. Item 2 - Natural Disasters
 1. There was an e-mail from the selectman's office to post the road as being closed and to notify dispatch/state troopers/dpw then it is ok to leave the scene. There was still a concern regarding these situations and it will be addressed with Mark Petrone via telephone later in the meeting.
 - iii. Item 3 - Tax Abatements
 1. Each department Chief will be talking with their volunteers to discuss who wants to qualify for tax abatements. We will determine a date to get everyone together so Marie can attend and verify the W2 and I9 forms.

- iv. Item 4 - Fax Lines
 - 1. All voting fax lines have been disconnected per e-mail request from BOS and registrar's office.
- v. Item 5 - Insurance Representative
 - 1. Mark Petrone from our Insurance company's Risk Management division will be attending a phone conference tonight at 19:30 to discuss any questions or concerns we may have and to set up training.
- vi. Item 6 - Stuffed Animals
 - 1. Citizen's request for a donation of stuffed animals has been addressed by Community's ambulance service. At this time the fire departments are not accepting further donations.
- 4. 7:30pm - Phone Conference with Mark Petrone
 - a. Mark will be setting up trial username's and passwords for the fire chiefs in a software program designed for updated online trainings. This software is at no additional costs and is covered under our insurance policy.
 - b. Mark will also be forwarding the chief's a copy of the physical forms that are required by OSHA as well as forms that are used around the state. In conversation about the concern over yearly physicals, Mark explained how it is done in New Haven at his departments. He said there is one day a year that the town doctor will come (usually from 4-7pm) to perform the EKG, Pulmonary Function tests, as well as a general physical to the fire fighters. The fit testing is completed on a separate drill night. Mark did say that all interior firefighters need to be cleared annually and exterior only firefighters can do it bi-annually.
 - c. Mark is going to further look into the legalities of leaving a scene during a natural disaster. Currently, if there is a downed power line or tree the fire departments are manning the road until it can be cleared. This is leaving a fire station unmanned causing a potential for a dangerous situation during natural disasters. There is concern over if the fire departments "close" the road by a barrier and a sign if someone ignores the sign and barrier and gets injured they will sue the fire departments. The fire departments are aware that in that situation they are not liable but there is concern over if they get brought to court who will pay for it as the departments do not have that funding in their budget.
 - d. Mark is going to come down and do a safe lifting/safety training on June 19th at 7:00pm at Quinebaug Fire Department for all volunteer firefighters.
- 5. Budget Meetings Comments and Concerns

- a. There was a concern brought up by John Sharpe that the capital expense worksheets that were completed by each fire department were not presented or given to the BOF.
 - b. There was a concern brought up by John Sharpe that the presentation in regards to funding for fire departments by Chief Matt Grauer was never shown. The BOF had it pulled up but never allowed time for it to be displayed/shown during the meeting.
 - c. There was a concern that the departments were led to believe they would have a good portion of a budget meeting to discuss fire department needs. When the meeting came up the departments had 11 minutes and were not able to speak or defend their requests.
 - d. It was discussed that we will present Chief Grauer's presentation to the BOS and BOF at a special meeting this fall followed up by a separate meeting with a guest presenter from Woodstock to discuss "The Woodstock Model"
 - e. It was also suggested that at next year's budget meeting with the BOF, the fire departments request anyone who has made a personal donation or has been impacted by the FD's to attend and speak up during citizen comments.
6. Plan a committee update for the BOS
- a. A presentation will need to be presented to the BOS sometime this summer in regards to the FAC. We will need to go down the recommended list, describe what we are exploring as a committee (Woodstock Model, etc), show where we are more efficient or trying to reduce costs, and show accomplishments in the departments (officers roundtable meetings).
 - b. Steve Bodreau motioned to table this discussion until our May Meeting.
 - c. Kyle Cimochoowski second the motion
 - d. No Discussion, 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent
7. Steve Bodreau motioned to Adjourn the meeting at 21:15
- a. Second by Kyle Cimochoowski
 - b. No discussion, 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent