Fire Advisory Committee

Thursday May 23. 2019

West Thompson Fire Department

7:00 pm

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 19:02

Present: Kyle Cimochowski, West Thompson

John Sharpe, Community

Steve Bodreau, Quinebaug

Matt Grauer, Thompson Hill

Kim Austin, Chair

Ron Fournier, Sub for East Thompson

2 firefighters

1 member of the Community

Amy St. Onge, Selectman

Absent: Jeff Sheldon, East Thompson

Community Member, vacant

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve by John Sharpe

Second by Steve Bodreau

No discussion, 5 in favor, 0 oppose, 2 absent/vacant

3. Update on April’s Meeting

1. Designate a time and date for tax verification with Marie. The chief’s came up with three dates. Kim will e-mail Marie and ask if she is available any of those dates.
2. Update from Mark Petrone. E-mail with forms was forwarded by Kim to the fire chiefs. John brought up the concern of the insurance company stating that interior fire fighters should have a physical every year and non-interior have one every two years. This is different then what they are currently following (NFPA standard by age). Currently it is about $15/member to obtain this physical, if all departments need to be updated then the cost would be large. It will be readdressed with Marie to see if we can get the town doctor to come perform the physical one evening. It was mentioned that the firefighters will need an EKG performed. It will be mentioned to see if we can get KB paramedics to come and perform the EKG on the firefighters at the same time. Kim will e-mail Marie to follow up.
3. Powerpoint from Chief Matt Praise. Marie told Kim that the powerpoint was informative and nicely put together. In discussion we have asked that the powerpoint be posted to the town website. Kim will e-mail Marie. Kim will also talk to Diane with the BOF about adding the fire departments to the roster for June 20th. Kim will invite the BOS to attend this meeting as well.

4. Update on Community Fire Department

1. Community Fire department will present to the BOS their plan at the June 4th meeting
2. It is estimated to be about $885,355 for a simplistic 6 bay addition. The department will also be asking for $100,000 for renovations to the current building so they can move all the offices and equipment to one level. They are looking into applying for an USDA loan with a partial grant. It is estimated that if a 40 year loan is given it will cost the town about $30,000 a year.

5. BOS update presentation discussion

1. A plan for August/September will be put into place to update the BOS on the progress of the FAC. In this presentation the following will be addressed.
   1. The 30 suggested changes to be made from the study
   2. Adding in a fire tax district
   3. Recruitment and retention

6. Dates for presentations to BOS

1. Steve will contact his person at Woodstock to discuss availability for a presentation to the BOS and BOF. We are looking at presenting the Woodstock model to the BOS and BOF in the fall. After the presentation we will meet for feedback and come together to develop a plan for the Town of Thompson.

7. Other Concerns and Comments

1. It was recommended by a community member to request the Superintendent of schools attend a FAC meeting to strengthen our working relationship. Some ideas brought up would be to push more community service, use the juniors and seniors to assist in fire education in the schools and give them more of a reason for joining the volunteer departments. Kim will reach out to Danielle to discuss a timeline.
2. The June 27th meeting will be cancelled if we are able to meet with the BOF. An update will be posted as soon as it is determined.
3. Thursday July 25, 2019 meeting will be held at station 84 (Thompson Hill) at 19:00.

8. Adjourn at 20:49

Motion by Kyle Cimochowski

Second by John Sharpe

5 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent/vacant