**Fire Advisory Committee**

**October 24, 2019**

**7:00pm**

**Station 82 - West Thompson Fire Department**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members in attendance:** Kim Austin, Chair

Kyle Cimochowski, West Thompson

John Sharpe, Community

Steve Bodreau, Quinebaug

Matt Grauer, Thompson Hill

Christine Chatelle, Citizen

**Members not in attendance:**  Jeff Sheldon, East Thompson

**All others in attendance:**  Ron Fournier, East Thompson alt.

1 volunteer firefighter

1. **Call to Order** @ 19:02
2. **Approval of the August Minutes** Motion to table until November Meeting made by Matt Grauer, second by Kyle Cimochowski. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent
3. **Update from August Meeting**
4. Community Day went very well. Ideas for next year include maybe putting out a grease fire. It was agreed upon that the departments all felt included and preferred to be on the inside of the circle.
5. Kim Austin has reached out to John Rice in regards to how the funding for the TEEG building came out. She also is reaching out to the town planner about taking alternative routes to assist Community with the expansion of their department.
6. **Correspondence**
   1. East Thompson returned their funding request two weeks prior.
   2. Matt Grauer and Kyle Cimochowski will respond to Marie in regards to the Fire Police commissioner positions for their districts.
7. **Tax District VS Woodstock Model**
   1. The departments want complete transparency with the town in regards to the development and restructure of the funding for the fire departments.
   2. It was agreed upon the fire districts that whatever the town decides to do there should only be one fee for the entire town (no tax districts but instead a town wide district)
   3. Comments about the woodstock model would be that it would be easier for the town to support however the departments would need security that once the money was given to the board that it woudl not be able to be taken back out.
   4. Comments about the tax district is that it would not be easy to pass and the town folks would feel that they are being overtaxed.
   5. When funding transfers to a new model parts of the fire departments line items will need to be readdressed. These include 911 calls and hydrants. Both are currently being taken out of the departments funding but neither is related to the fire departments, they are town government costs.
   6. Regardless of the woodstock model or tax district becoming incorporated and developing a board will need to happen. The chiefs have already filed to become incorporated. The fire advisory Committee is assigned with finding a diverse group of people who would want to sit on the board (CPA, lawyer, career firefighters, finance directors, etc).
   7. Kim will e-mail and request a special meeting for Thursday November 14th at 7pm for the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance to meet and have an open discussion in regards to the next steps and what direction the town wants the departments to go in.
8. **Other Concerns and Comments**
   1. Kim will follow up with the first selectman after the elections in regards to changing the ordinance that correspondes with the tax abatement
   2. Dates for the 2020 Fire Advisory Committee have been scheduled. Please see the attached list. Motion to approve by Kyle Cimochowski, second by John Sharpe. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.
   3. There will be a level 2 firedrill at the school next week. All firefighters are asked to be in attendance to help with the process. There will be a level 3 firedrill within the upcoming 60 days.
9. **Adjourn**
   1. Motion to adjourn at 20:52 by John Sharpe, second by Kyle Cimochowski. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

**2020 Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Dates**

**Station 81 - Community Volunteer Fire Department**

**Station 82 - West Thompson Volunteer Fire Department**

**Station 83 - Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department**

**Station 84 - Thompson Hill Volunteer Fire Department**

**Station 85 - East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department**

**All meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 4th Thursday unless otherwise noted\***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Thursday | January 23, 2020 | Station 85 |
| Thursday | February 27, 2020 | Station 81 |
| Thursday | March 26, 2020 | Station 82 |
| Thursday | April 23, 2020 | Station 83 |
| Thursday | May 28, 2020 | Station 84 |
| Thursday | June 25, 2020 | Station 85 |
| Thursday | July 23, 2020 | Station 81 |
| Thursday | August 27, 2020 | Station 82 |
| Thursday | September 24, 2020 | Station 83 |
| Thursday | October 22, 2020 | Station 84 |
| Monday | November 23, 2020 | Station 85 |
| Monday | December 21, 2020 | Station 81 |