

Town of New Boston

Board of Fire Wards

January 22, 2024

Fire Wards in attendance at this meeting were Chief Plourde, Dick Moody, Brandon Merron, Wayne Blassberg, Joe Segien and Derek Danis. Steve Sears was unable to attend this meeting.

Also in attendance were NBFD Operations Chief Frank Fraitzl, NBFD Administrator Brian Dubreuil and NBFD Assistant Administrator Laurel Flax.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 pm.

There were no Public Comments.

There were no Appointments,

Old Business

Item 1. Review and acceptance of Public Minutes from the January 8 Board of Fire Wards meeting. Brandon Merron made a motion to accept the Public Minutes from the January 8 Board of Fire Wards meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Wayne Blassberg. All Fire Wards present were in favor. The motion passed.

Item 2. Budget Review following Public Hearing and preparation for Deliberative Session

- Frank Fraitzl reported the latest updates on the budget following the Finance Committee meeting on January 11.
 - The Finance Committee made recommendations to the Select Board on cuts to reach a certain percentage over the default budget for the overall budget.
 - All department heads were asked to find items to cut in their budgets.
 - The price budgeted for gasoline and diesel fuel was flagged as too high by several departments.
 - Gasoline was originally budgeted at \$4.00/gal.
 - Diesel fuel was originally budgeted at \$4.75/gal.
 - Highway, Police and Fire Departments worked on the price forecast with the Finance Director and determined that lower numbers were reasonable. Frank Fraitzl checked a Department of Energy website that he had used in the past to forecast fuel prices.
 - The new budget numbers will result in significant savings.
 - Gasoline will be budgeted at \$3.25/gal.
 - Diesel fuel will be budgeted at \$4.00/gal.
 - The Fire Department budgeted savings are:
 - \$1500 for gasoline
 - \$1200 for diesel fuel
 - The use of this change in fuel prices and some additional cuts that were made allowed the Select Board to meet the request of the Finance Committee. The budget will go forward to the Deliberative Session as is.
 - Next Monday, the Select Board will be voting on Warrant Articles. This will provide their position on Warrant Articles and the budget for the Deliberative Session.

- Frank Fraitzl reiterated that we need to keep getting information out about our Warrant Articles; especially the Per Diem since it is so critical to our operation.
 - Brian Dubreuil has been creating some 1-page documents with hard facts and no opinions about the program. These reports contain data about items such as our response time to incidents.
 - We will have a presentation prepared with 1 or 2 slides to present at the Deliberative Session if we are given the opportunity.
- Frank Fraitzl reported that there were about 7 non-Town employees at the Public Hearing plus whoever watched the live stream, and there were about 6 non-Town employees at the Q&A session on Sunday.
 - Brandon Merron added that there was some confusion at the beginning of the Budget Meeting, and the Select Board had to provide a lot of clarifications. The Fire Department portion was good.

Item 3. New Fire Station update

- Frank Fraitzl reported that there is a meeting every other Wednesday and last week there were 2-meetings.
 - Meeting with the MEP (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing) engineer. This meeting also included Beltronics, our radio vendor and American Fire and Security who is the vendor that the Town is using for security systems.
 - Topics at this meeting included:
 - Internal radio system
 - Voice annunciation
 - Alerting
 - Lighting
 - Radio tower potential location and specifications (Beltronic)
 - Access control – punch cards, cameras and security issues
 - Wayne Blassberg asked if the radio tower would be on-site.
 - Frank Fraitzl stated that there would be a 100 to 160' self-standing tower on site that will tie into Ridgeview, and would be able to stand alone if the Ridgeview tower had a failure. This site is a challenge since it is in a valley. The site will provide decent, but not great in & out coverage.
 - Wayne Blassberg asked if we are on the tower at Dodge's.
 - Frank Fraitzl replied that we have been online for 6-months at Dodge's, and we are still working through some challenges with interference from microwaves on Chestnut Hill.
- Frank Fraitzl reported that on Wednesday, he met with the abutters about the revised roadway proposal and they agreed to it.
 - The new plan does not change the Pizza and Post Office Road.
 - The library access shifts to the North to work with our driveway and make more of a 4-way intersection.
 - There is a minor change to the cornering curve.
 - Once Kevin gets the design on paper, Frank Fraitzl will meet with the Library Trustees to get their approval.
 - There is also a plan with Conservation to tie the existing trail in with parking on the site.

- Derek Danis asked if the changes interfere with the run-off plans.
 - Frank Fraitzl replied that Kevin has delineated the Wetlands area. The new plan may shift the retention pond closer to the library entrance, since that is the lowest spot, and therefore the most logical.
 - The originally identified sliver of land may be used for the radio tower.
- We are hoping to have the final design documents done by the first week of February.
- Jason, our architect, was also the architect for the Kingston, NH Fire Station and arranged a tour of the Kingston Fire Station for Brian Dubreuil, Frank Fraitzl and Tony, the estimator from Turnstone. This was a good opportunity to look at the station and ask them what they would change. Also, it helped Tony understand what we are looking for. Overall, it was a productive morning.
- Frank Fraitzl spoke with the State Fire Marshall and they can do the Plan Reviews and Inspections under the State Building Permit Program.
 - Frank Fraitzl will send the paperwork to Jason to get the cost and determine whether that will work, or whether we will need to go to an engineering firm for the reviews and inspections.
- Wayne Blassberg asked whether we have a permit for the second driveway cut.
 - Brian Dubreuil had met with DOT and stated that we have a verbal approval from DOT for an in-only driveway.
 - Frank Fraitzl reiterated that the driveway will be in-only and will have some conditions, but is approved.
- Brian Dubreuil reported that we have a possible exception to the BABA Act for heat pumps.
 - Frank Fraitzl added that this impacts our heating and we are looking at a couple of options.
 - Turnstone opened a ticket with Eversource to look at the cost and feasibility of bringing 3-phase power to the site.
 - We are waiting for information back on a number of things.
- Frank Fraitzl reported that we have 2-bids back for the Clerk of the Works position.
 - 5-bids were sent out.
 - 1 company replied that they were not bidding, and we did not hear back from 2 of them.
 - 1 of the 2-bids we received was quite late.
 - 1 bid was for \$120,000 and the other was for \$240,000.
 - They were for roughly the same number of hours.
 - The higher bid was from the Seacoast area, and included mileage and travel time.
 - The lower bid was from the Manchester/Bedford area.
 - The next step is to take the bids to the Select Board and then to Legal.
 - \$115,000 was budgeted in the grant and since we are starting this position a little later than planned with this position, we will try to negotiate the contract down to the budget.
 - The Bids are on the Select Board Agenda for Monday night.
 - Chief Plourde asked what the time would be to get the Clerk of the Works started once the bid was accepted.
 - Frank Fraitzl replied that in the interest of time, he plans to send the \$120,000 bid to legal now, so that when it goes to the Select Board, it has already been reviewed.

- Frank Fraitzl added that we met the grant requirements for bidding and have documented that.
- Derek Danis asked if the \$120,000 bid company has experience.
 - Frank Fraitzl replied that they do have experience and their latest station was Manchester Station 9. Frank Fraitzl also has a call in to the Town Administrator of another town where they built a station.
- Frank Fraitzl added that there is a Fire Station Advisory Committee on Wednesday.

Operations Chief's Report

Item 1. Engine 1

- Frank Fraitzl reported that Engine 1's pump controls shut down while idling at Training last week.
 - Perkins came in and was able to replicate the problem at least 5-times
 - The electronic controls shut down, and Perkins' recommendation was to take the truck out of service.
 - Note that 10-minutes after taking E1 out of service, there was a fire call.
 - Likely causes of the issue are a direct battery short or a grounding issue.
 - Engine 1 is going to RJP 1st thing tomorrow morning.
 - Perkins will call RJP to explain their findings.
 - Josh at RJP will look at it, and call if he cannot handle it.
 - We hope to have the truck back tomorrow.

Item 2. Subdivision Application

- Frank Fraitzl reported that we have received a minor subdivision application on Lull Road.
 - Eric Dubowik has reviewed the plan.
 - It falls within the Water Supply Requirements.
 - The plan is going to the Planning Board tomorrow.

Public Comment #2 There were no Public Comments.

Chief Plourde made a motion for Non-Public per RSA 91-A: 3.II (a),(b),(c),(l) Personnel and Legal. The motion was seconded by Brandon Merron. All Fire Wards present were in favor by Roll Call Vote. The Motion passed.

The Board entered Non-Public session at 6:55 pm.

The Board reconvened the Public session at 8:14 pm.

Brandon Merron made a motion to seal the minutes from the Non-Public session for 10-years. The motion was seconded by Wayne Blassberg. All Fire Wards present were in favor. The motion passed.

Derek Danis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Wayne Blassberg. All Fire Wards present were in favor. The motion passed.

Minutes recorded by Laurel Flax.