

**Town of Sunapee
Board of Fire Wards
October 16, 2019**

Present: Josh Trow and Austin Brown

Absent: Jake Paris

Also present: Chief Dan Ruggles

Josh Trow opened the meeting at 7:04AM

Human Resources-Chief Ruggles stated he would conduct interviews for Assistant Chief next week and then would focus on the rest of the positions.

Josh Trow indicated there was some discussions at the Fire Department Meeting that he attended about the pay equality. He stated he realized that some would not receive as much as they had in the past but believes moving forward it will be very fair. Chief Ruggles stated that some of the officers are not doing their job, and therefore will not be officers any longer. Chief Ruggles said he has received a few complaints about how long the process is taking.

Recruitment & Retention-Chief Ruggles noted that a banner has been placed on the Safety Services Building indicating we are looking for members. Chief Ruggles indicated he will try to go on local radio stations to try to encourage people to join. Josh Trow suggested WCNL as an option.

Chief Ruggles noted that he is striving to have more interesting training for present members. He went on to say he has been in contact with New London Fire about partnering with them for a Jr program which he anticipates starting in the Spring of 2020. He noted this will be a time-consuming job and he can envision meeting in both towns. Austin Brown asked how many were involved in New London and Chief Ruggles said there are five and at present Sunapee has one that is interested. Austin Brown cautioned that he can see this becoming very popular because young adults love firefighting, but what better way to get future members. Josh Trow reminded all that Sunapee's sports participation may be a factor in getting Jr members.

Chief Ruggles stated there are three members enrolled in an EMR Course at present. He noted this is a good way for someone to experiment with the medical side of the Fire Department and see if it for them. If so many go on to do an EMT Course, but noted it is more of a commitment.

Ambulance Contract-Chief Ruggles read the contracts provided by Austin Brown and has concluded that the one Laconia uses would not be suitable for Sunapee, but the other two might work.

Josh Trow received an email from Town Manager Donna Nashawaty indicating she has not heard from New London Ambulance. It was noted this needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Truck-Chief Ruggles is returning our present Forestry Truck soon as the new truck should be delivered at the beginning of 2020. Additions were made to the one we ordered and that is why it is taking longer than anticipated.

Chief Pay-Josh Trow spoke with Town Manager about the Chief's pay, and we cannot pay hourly for training if we continue to pay a stipend for the annual salary. There was much discussion analyzing a stipend versus hourly pay for the Chief and it was decided that Josh Trow will discuss it with the Town Manager and come back with what the figure would be if we went to hourly pay instead of a stipend.

Chief Ruggles stated that on Friday of this week trucks and the truck's hose will be tested and prior to year end the breathing apparatus test will be complete. Other hose test is performed from an outside company and that takes place every other year. The compressor is tested every year, and the ladder on the Ladder Truck is completed every 5 years unless the truck has received damage.

SOP-Chief Ruggles indicated that SOP- Hazmat 121 needs some revision as he does not agree with the name it has been assigned.

It was decided to wait until Jake Paris returned to review the SOPs.

Chief Vehicle-there was a discussion about purchasing one of the autos from the Police Department when they receive their new ones. Josh Trow had a conversation with Chief Ruggles regarding payment of this vehicle. It was determined that it should come from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve. The payment to the Police Department will be around \$3,500 and it will cost approximately \$1,500 for lights and lettering.

The next meeting will be held at Sunapee Town Hall on October 30, 2019 at 7:00AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04am

Submitted by:

Betty H. Ramspott