

Sunapee Firewards, 12/16/2021

In Person - Josh Trow, Jake Paris, Austin Brown

On Phone - Chief John Galloway

Agenda:

Budget

Per diems

Personnel

Recent calls

Any other business

Convened 7pm

Chairman Trow noted that it had been a while since all 3 Firewards had been able to attend in person, it was good to see everyone again.

Trow asked Galloway about the current status of the per-diem positions, and if all slots have coverage at this time. Galloway responded that this was the first week of staffing, and one person was on coverage each day. Next week, there is a mixed set of 1 and 2 person days, with the expectation that as time goes on more people will be on schedule. Currently, five individuals have cleared paperwork to take slots, with another two in process. As further experience is gained, Galloway will review the program and come back if changes are necessary. There is already at least one person signed up for Christmas time. Schedules are managed in WhenToWork.

Trow asked Galloway if there were any budget updates, for this year or next. Galloway responded that other than the items further in the meeting, there was nothing new to note. Trow asked if the decision to maintain dispatch service with New London was likely a permanent one or if it was a question of more to-do this year, and Galloway noted that the change was held off for this year due to the cost and some timing issues, but that the conversation about long-term dispatch service was still proceeding throughout this year.

Trow asked if there were any other personnel updates, outside of the per-diem roles. Galloway responded that a few members had moved out of town, but otherwise nothing to report.

Some discussion was had about recent calls. The two calls that came up were the call at the High School and the Thanksgiving Day save. Galloway noted that it was concerning how long it took for the on-scene personnel to be notified that Newport was unable to staff a truck for response to the school. It was also interesting to note that even Newport with full-time personnel is sometimes unable to staff a response, so keeping up on our options is going to be critical moving forward. Some discussion was had about response times and departments, with Trow noting that it was likely Claremont who would be the next full-time department toned if issues arose. Paris asked what alarm that would be, with Galloway noting that depending on the side of town likely 3rd or 4th alarm. As far as the Thanksgiving save, all the members involved were given 'Save' pins and recognition at the previous Tuesdays' gathering.

Galloway noted that he has a save pin for the girlfriend of the patient, who had with quick thinking noticed the issue, called 911, and started CPR - saving his life. The family of the patient was unable to attend Tuesday, so there may be a future gathering but at minimum the pin will be presented to the

girlfriend at some point. Trow noted that the representative from NL Hospital had let everyone know if they want a CPR course to just call the hospital and they 'would make it happen', and asked Galloway if there was a way to have Sunapee Fire/EMS host a class at the Safety Services building for anyone in town or nearby who wanted to learn. Galloway noted that the department had hosted classes previously when requested, but those had generally been businesses looking for their staff to learn. He would check with NLH to set something up for the general public.

Trow then moved onto an email received from the Shannon Martinez, town manager. He noted that not all meetings that had been on the calendar had actually happened - they had simply been put up on a schedule way back and never got cancelled. He would do better about getting them actually removed or scheduled as appropriate, so there was not such a discrepancy. Also, minutes were originally being prepared by the Administrative Assistant, but there has been a significant lag in getting them written. There may need to be a review of who does them, so that they may be done on a tighter schedule. Trow will check with the AA and Martinez to review. Trow noted that at some previous meeting, there had been motions to support reappointment of all three members for new terms, but he had not tracked down exactly which meeting that was at nor found the recording, so it was likely simplest to make new motions. Trow moved to nominate Paris; Brown seconded. All in favor. Trow moved to nominate Brown; Paris seconded. All in favor. Paris moved to nominate Trow; Brown seconded. All in favor. Trow noted the final item from the first email was that Martinez wanted to meet with the Firewards in early 2022, all were in support of this. Trow will let Martinez know when the next meetings are and try to schedule one where everyone can attend.

Trow proceeded to the second email from Martinez. The request was to look into using MRI's resources to create a strategic plan for the fire department. There have been some preliminary emails with Brian Duggan from MRI and an estimated price of \$20000 was provided, with Martinez noting that she had looked around and that seemed to be the market rate. If approved, Martinez would like to setup a meeting with the Firewards, Galloway, and MRI to go over the process and if in support sign a contract to have MRI work with the department. Trow noted that he was in favor of the process but wanted to be careful about the goals. He wanted to ensure that the goal was identifying what the town would need for fire/EMS services in the next 5/10 years, and then what steps would need to be implemented to achieve that, rather than trying to move the department automatically to full-time staffing. Paris noted that he had had conversations with multiple other departments who had gone through this process with MRI and that they did work with the town to identify needs and create a plan, it is not a foregone conclusion. All Firewards were in favor of moving forward with MRI, Trow will work with Martinez and Galloway to setup an initial meeting.