

**Fire and Rescue Planning Committee  
Minutes of May 9, 2016**

**Committee Members Present:** Co-Chair Ben Wallace, Co-Chair Kevin Johnson, Jonathan Burbank, Gail Hart, Allan LeGrow, Dave Mercier and Rick Daniel

**Staff Present:** Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator and Marguerite Kelly, Town Treasurer

**Minutes**

Co-Chair Johnson moved to adopt the minutes of April 25; it was seconded by Allan LeGrow and passed 3-0.

**General Discussion**

There was a brief discussion about what recommendations, from the 2008 report and 2014 task force report, have been achieved. It was noted that some progress has been made.

While this Committee will be focused on planning for the future, the Fire and Rescue Chiefs Committee may still wish to meet as issues arise.

There was discussion about what staffing might look like in a new centralized model. One suggestion was that it might be a paramedic plus two. Some discussion followed on the qualifications of the two (should they be EMT/Firefighter), what the schedule should be, and whether it should be 24/7 coverage from the beginning. Other questions emerged: What would be the timeline for implementation? Would the paramedic be expected to respond to fire calls? How will the back-up system work? What role will the volunteers continue to play?

A centralized service will require a building. In the interim, if was asked if the OBI location could serve as a central station until something was constructed on Mountain Road. That was considered a possibility.

Centralization of services may lead to a reduction in the number of emergency vehicles needed to serve the Town. There was some discussion about what specific vehicles may no longer be necessary in a centralized system, with a possible elimination of up to 5 vehicles. The current brush truck may not be needed at this time, though the OBI department has yet to make a final recommendation to the Town about its disposition.

A question was raised about whether the departments were at risk of losing volunteers with this Committee's discussion of a new service delivery model. It was mentioned that if volunteers are asked to go to other areas of the Town to provide coverage that could be an issue for them. It was also mentioned that the departments may lose volunteers from age alone. There was a general understanding that any new model would continue to have a role for volunteers.

Discussion continued on the staffing issue with a focus on the aspect of management, supervision and scheduling—areas that would likely require the position of a municipal Fire Chief to be created. Compensation and benefits were touched on. (Salary information from Maine Municipal Association will be provided to the Committee).

Site planning money for construction purposes may be needed in the 2017 budget. At some point, it will be important to hold a public meeting, including members of the three departments, to seek input and provide an update of the planning process.

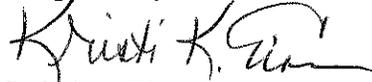
A suggestion was made that the length of Committee meetings be held to about 1.5 hours.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 6pm. The Town Planner or the consultant/facilitator who worked with the task force in 2014 will be invited to assist the Committee with developing its vision and mapping out the components/details of that vision.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristi K. Eiane  
Town Administrator