

Fire & Rescue Planning Committee

Minutes

11 April 2023

Present: Selectman Kevin Johnson (co-chair), Chief Ben Wallace Jr (co-chair), Chief David Mercier, Chief Harvey Pough, CHFD President Jonathan Burbank, OBIFD President Peter Nikitas, HNFR President John Pearson.

Guests: Arthur Howe III, Phil Taylor and Nelson Barter.

Meeting opened in Conference Room 2 at 2 pm with introductions.

1. Phil Taylor is a member of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. He made a request on behalf of the committee for input on the in progress Comprehensive Plan with regards to the future of fire and EMS delivery in Harpswell: structure, needs, etc. Phil provided the committee with the excerpt of the current Comprehensive Plan that address such for reference. Request to have our future plans to the Comprehensive Planning Committee by fall.
2. Discussion around consolidation for the function of the Emergency Vehicles Committee into the Fire & Rescue Planning Committee. This committee is responsible already for the strategic development of fire & EMS in Harpswell, including apparatus needs. The EVC has in the past provided feedback on vehicle specifications presented by the department requesting the vehicle purchase. Can a sub-committee of the Fire & Rescue Committee perform this function, rather than a standing committee that only meets as needed? In the end it was suggested that the members of the Fire & Rescue Committee were the same as the current EVC, with the exception of Asst. Nelson Barter, and so it could continue to function as a committee?

A follow-on discussion around vehicles:

- a. Chief Wallace recommended that Engine 9 be returned to the Town for Town Firefighter use where ever they are assigned, and could be used as a spare engine town-wide. The Town will need to prepare a plan to budget for maintaining the truck, adding a Knox KeySecure and PlymoVent connection to the truck exhaust, and include it in next year's budget. The recommendation was received well. (note: The PlymoVent system at Orr's Island Fire Station will need to be modified for the truck when it's there as well.)
- b. After the 2023 Pierce engine is placed in service as Engine 3, the current Engine 1 (1991 Ford engine) will be retired, and the current Engine 3 (2000 GMC engine) will be reassigned to Engine 1.
- c. The next vehicle on the replacement list is a Squad 5 (2003 Ford squad). It is scheduled for 2023. Currently working on the spec, and the difference in rechassis vs. replacement.
- d. The 2000 GMC engine also has electrical and mechanical issues, and will need to be retired soon. Chief Wallace suggested delaying the replacement of Brush 3, which is next on the list after Squad 5, if Squad 3 (2002 GMC Squad) is replaced with a new smaller squad truck with a much lower cost than a new fire engine. If a new squad truck is put into service with Squad 3, the 2000 GMC engine, and the 2002 GMC Squad truck could be retired, reducing OBI to one fire engine and a smaller squad in the end. It is possible that a new squad truck for Squad 5 & Squad 3 could be acquired in a group/single purchase with similar specifications.

Proposed vehicle replacement schedule:

2023-2024 (order): Squad 5 (2003 Ford)

2024 (order): Squad 3 (2002 GMC) – also retire 2000 GMC engine when the new squad arrives

Ambulances within 5 years?

3. What is included in vehicle purchase? The committee agrees that the new trucks needed to come equipped and ready to go to work. The departments are at a point where they cannot continue to outfit the new vehicles. What equipment? Broad agreement on what is listed in NFPA 1901, and radios. Appears to be majority agreement on whatever equipment is intended for the truck, that will not be reused from existing stock (ie. SCBAs, hose, etc.). Questions need to be answered about replacement/retirement of radios and loose equipment the truck is delivered with. The equipment has a shorter life span than the vehicles.

Next meeting is scheduled for 10 AM, May 15th.