

Fire & Rescue Planning Committee

Minutes

19 May 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: Kristi Eiane and Nelson Barter.

Meeting opened in Large Conference Room at 10 am.

1. While waiting for Selectman Johnson to arrive, the committee further discussed the use of Engine 9 by town staff, and moving it back-and-forth between Harpswell Neck and Orr's Island. The general consensus was that it would make more sense to make that the regular assigned piece for town staff only after they had a central facility from which to respond. There was further discussion around the need to make a central facility happen sooner than later, and it was decided to take that up at the next committee meeting.
2. The Fire Administrator job description was reviewed in preparation for Art Howe's retirement, with a focus on time in the fire house at least two 12-hour shifts per week and assisting the volunteers with administrative and training as originally envisioned. It was also suggested by town staff that the position might absorb the role of Health Officer as well, which is currently being done by the Assistant Town Administrator. Kristi will incorporate the Committee's recommendations into an updated job description to present to the Selectboard for consideration, and to move forward with posting the position.

To-do List

May 12, 2023 – Complete recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan Taskforce regarding Fire & Rescue delivery by September to be included in the new Comprehensive Plan.

Next meeting is scheduled for 10 AM, June 19th.