

**Fire and Rescue Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes of November 7, 2016**

Members present: Selectman Kevin Johnson, Co-Chair; Ben Wallace, Co-Chair; Jonathan Burbank, Gail Hart, Allan LeGrow, David Mercier and Selectman Rick Daniel

Others present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Marguerite Kelly, Town Treasurer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order around 6pm.

Minutes

The Committee voted to accept the minutes of August 27, September 12, 19 and 26 as amended with Gail Hart's presence noted on the 19th.

Update of Coordinated Recruitment Effort

The departments are organizing to bring Tiger Schmittendorf, a speaker on recruitment and retention issues, to Harpswell in January—either January 9 or 16. It was suggested that January 16 would be the preferred date. Schmittendorf has requested certain information from the departments, such as call volumes, number of volunteers, budgets, fundraising efforts and the nature of volunteer positions within the organizations. Demographic data is sought as well. It was noted that the session should focus on leadership with respect to recruitment and retention.

Other possibilities

- Brunswick has given no indication that it is interested in taking on specific coverage responsibilities in Harpswell.
- Consider meeting with Kennebunkport Chief.
- Review model(s) with Town Attorney to build a model in Harpswell that is consistent with statute. It was noted by the Committee that Harpswell's model may well be unique.
- The Committee decided to set up a meeting with the Town Attorney on November 21.

Other

The question was raised about whether Committee member Ben Wallace is interested in the position of municipal fire chief, if it is created by the Town, noting that if Committee member Wallace is interested he may have to step down from the Committee as some people will see his involvement in this process as a conflict of interest. Committee member Wallace indicated he was concerned about public perception and his involvement has never been about a creating a position for himself. He noted that he made a conscious effort not to discuss issues around the proposed Fire Chief position. Selectman Daniel stated that when the Committee composition was being discussed, it was important to have Wallace join because his knowledge was important to the process. There was general consensus that it would have been best if his interest had been disclosed to the full Committee in the early stages of the Committee's work. However, given Wallace's skill sets, the benefit of having him involved in the process has outweighed the perception of conflict of interest. Wallace indicated that he would recuse himself from any discussions about the duties, responsibilities, salary and compensation of a municipal fire chief.

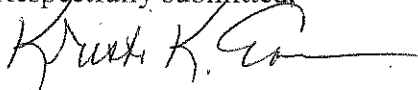
Public Comment

It was noted by one member of the public that it would be a loss to have Ben Wallace leave. Another public member noted that if Wallace were to leave the Committee, then OBI would be interested in appointing another member.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristi K. Eiane", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristi K. Eiane, Town Administrator