

Fire Rescue Planning Committee

Minutes

August 14, 2023

Members attending: Chief Wallace, Chief Pough, Kevin Johnson, John Pearson

Absent: Chief Mercier and Jonathan Burbank

Staff: Mike Drake

Guests: Ted Merriman and Nelson Barter

Meeting opened in Large Conference Room at 10:10 am.

Minutes for July 10, 2023 meeting approved.

Chief Wallace update on radio system- CCRCC will be adopting a "P-25" digital radio system. We do not have compatible radios for this new system and are hoping the county makes money available to buy the radios needed. Our current pagers will no longer work and may or may not be funded by the county.

Review of the town comprehensive plan for emergency services continues. There are 3 draft ideas to update the current plan from 2003.

Kevin suggests to keep the revision more basic than the 2003 edition.

John asks to include trends in calls and staff. Chief Wallace emailed average response times from the current stations and the paramedic building over the last three years prior to this meeting.

Chief Wallace- Let's try to pick one of the current drafts and touch it up instead of trying to combine all 3 drafts. Agreed that the new plan should be less specific than the current plan.

Chief Wallace offers 4 points to include in the plan as Policies or Action Recommendations. Each point stands on its own regardless of adoption of the others.

1. The three volunteer fire companies must be fully supported by the Town.
2. The town must plan for new stations on the Mountain Road for paid staff, and Cundy's Harbor for the volunteers.
3. Transition to volunteer first responders volunteering for the Town. Those same volunteers would also join their volunteer fire company.
4. The Town should study the pros and cons of forming a municipal fire department.

Must make it clear that a limited number of paid staff will only be able to cover "routine" calls, but will not be enough to handle all incidents and MUST be supplemented by the volunteer fire companies.

The volunteer fire companies will continue to need Emergency Medical Technicians, in addition to firefighters, driver/operators, and other roles.

The committee elected to ask John Pearson and Jonathan Burbank to continue to work on combining their two drafts into one solid document. Also agree that the Comprehensive Plan should not list the number, types, makes, and models of emergency vehicles.

Meeting adjourned 11:08 am.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @ 10am

DRAFT