

**Fire and Rescue Planning Committee
Minutes of April 25, 2016**

Committee Members Present: Jonathan Burbank, Gail Hart, Allan LeGrow, Dave Mercier, Ben Wallace, Jr., and Rick Daniel, Selectman

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

Nomination of Chair

Selectman Daniel moved to nominate Selectman Kevin Johnson and Ben Wallace, Jr. as co-Chairs of the Committee. It was seconded and passed 5-0, with an abstention by Ben Wallace.

Background Information

The Committee was provided with the 2014 Report of the Emergency Medical Services Work Group (41-page report). Co-chair Wallace encouraged members also to review the 2008 Fire and Rescue Services Study (215-page report by Emergency Services Consulting) which is posted in its entirety on the Town's website. (Printed copies can be made available to Committee members upon request).

Review of Proposed Mission Statement

The Committee discussed the proposed mission statement and suggested that review of the capital vehicle plan should be included. In addition, it was agreed that the Committee should provide a progress report to the Selectmen in October, particularly if there are anticipated budgetary impacts for 2017. It was noted that both fire and rescue services were to be examined as part of the Committee's mission.

General Discussion

Members discussed the need to move toward some type of centralized arrangement, possibly the creation of a municipal department. It was noted that there are increasing numbers of non-emergency calls, and while some of these services have been provided in the past, these services may not be provided in the future without some charge. With more people choosing to age at home, calls are likely to continue to increase.

It was noted that developing a vision for the future delivery of services should occur. The vision could serve the basis for creating a road map that will address, among other items, staffing, vehicles and facility needs. Creating a common vision will help determine the size of a future facility on Mountain Road. Many issues need to be considered such as: How many bays would be needed? What vehicles would be housed there? What staffing levels would be needed? What staffing accommodations would be necessary? What would happen to the volunteer departments and their vehicles and facilities? What changes might be made to the existing paramedic service? Developing this vision will take time and collaboration with the Town. There could be phased implementation including a transition phase.

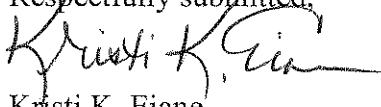
The departments expressed concern about the number of active members on their rosters, particularly during the day and particularly for fire-fighting purposes, though rescue is affected also.

The Committee will be provided with a capital vehicle list in advance of its next meeting on Monday, May 9.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Kristi K. Eiane
Town Administrator