

**Fire and Rescue Planning Committee
Minutes of July 18, 2016**

Committee Members Present: Co-Chair Kevin Johnson (Selectman), Co-Chair Ben Wallace, Jonathan Burbank, Allan LeGrow, Dave Mercier, Gail Hart. The meeting was called to order at 6:05. Rick Daniel (Selectman) joined the meeting at 6:30.

Others Present: Marguerite Kelly, Town Treasurer; Phil Taylor, Sean Hall, Zach Stoler and Paul Kittle, all members of the Orr's and Bailey Islands department.

Minutes

Minutes were approved (6-0) after adding that the 2018 Town Meeting would be asked to approve a switch from daytime coverage to 24/7 coverage for the two FTE firefighters, as well as a bond issue for construction of the central fire station.

Centralized Facility

Further discussion as to the size of the proposed centralized facility occurred with a consensus requesting that the Town engineer be asked whether the site could accommodate a two-story building which is 66 feet wide and 76 feet deep with a first floor height of 18 feet with a 16 foot door. The second story would be about the same square footage as the garage itself. The apron in front of the building should be at least the width of the building. A visit to the site will be scheduled for an upcoming meeting so that Committee members could visualize the facility.

SMCC Public Safety Student Live-in Program

Co-Chair Wallace described the student live-in program organized by SMCC, indicating that he believed this program could be beneficial to the Town once the central station was operational.

Potential Guests

The Committee discussed inviting certain individuals to speak with them, primarily as to the staffing models that were being used by entities that were not fully career departments. Topsham Chief Brian Stockdale was suggested as were the Chiefs of the Falmouth and Cumberland departments. Additionally, David Hudson, the Director of Midcoast Hospital's paramedic services could be invited to speak about the rotation schedule in the City of Bath.

Future Discussion

Co-Chair Wallace suggested that future meetings should delve more deeply into the process by which the three independent departments are incorporated into the municipal department.

Public Comments

The members of the public who were present were asked if they had questions or comments that they wished to share with the Committee. Concerns were expressed as to the potential impact that centralization would have on volunteerism and questions were raised as to how the Committee had come to the conclusion that a central station would benefit the Town. Committee members voiced their consensus that the central facility and the personnel who would be stationed there are intended to support the volunteer departments, not replace them.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for August 1 at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Marguerite Kelly
Submitted by Marguerite Kelly