


Fire & Rescue Planning Committee Meetings from January 23-February 27, 2017
Condensed Version of Minutes

January 23, 2017—All Committee members were present—Reviewed Town Attorney’s first draft of the Municipal Firefighters Assistance Ordinance. The Ordinance specifically recognizes the three fire zones and established a mechanism for the Town to provide supplemental assistance to the three departments to prevent gaps in coverage. It was noted that the model being proposed in Harpswell is somewhat unique. Committee discussed setting up meeting with all three departments, which was set for February 7 [ended up being snowed out and re-scheduled for February 21]. There was a general discussion of Fire Administrator and per diem positions—concern was expressed about a volunteer losing volunteer status once accepting a paid municipal firefighting shift.

February 6, 2017—All Committee members were present—Minutes of October 4, 11, 24; November 7, 21; December 20 and January 9 were unanimously approved. Updated Municipal Firefighters Assistance Ordinance was discussed. Prepared for upcoming presentation with three departments by reviewing and commenting on PowerPoint presentation put together by Committee member Burbank. Committee member LeGrow offered to update the Committee’s report to the Board of Selectmen to be presented at the Selectmen’s Meeting. [It is posted on the Town’s website under the Fire and Rescue Planning Committee section as a Progress Report Update, February 9, 2017]. The Committee further discussed the Fire Administrator and per diem positions and general qualifications. It was noted that anyone who takes a shift must be certified for interior firefighting.

February 21, 2017—All Committee members were present at the public meeting, held at the Old Orr’s Island Schoolhouse, to update the three fire departments. [The PowerPoint presentation is attached]. There was generally a favorable reaction to the Committee’s updated proposal. Concerns were expressed about the language in the draft of the Municipal Firefighters Assistance Ordinance about the Board of Selectmen appointing Fire Chiefs. Attendees wanted to see language that acknowledged the appointment by the Departments initially and then action by the Board of Selectmen.

February 27, 2017—All Committee members were present. The Committee had its final review of the Municipal Firefighters Assistance Ordinance. At the upcoming Selectmen’s Meeting, the Board will be making its final decision on the wording of the Ordinance, determining what will be included on the Town warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. It was noted that an ordinance cannot be amended on the floor of Town Meeting—it must be voted up or down. Most of the members of the Committee planned to attend the annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi K. Eiane, Town Administrator