

BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS
MONTHLY MEETING
9/9/14 @ 4:00PM

Present: Chief Peter Shemeth, Deputy Chief Alex Schaeffer, Capt. Charlie Smith, Capt. Geoff Freeman, Capt. Kelly, Larry Thomas and Anita Billings.

Meeting commenced at 4:00pm

Reviewed and approved minutes from August meeting
Reviewed and signed off bills and payroll

Old Business:

Assistant Chief:

- The Chiefs met with Asst. Chief Ellis and went over the issues. They gave him a week to think about it and get back to them. They met again and Asst. Chief Ellis indicated he no longer has the time to devote to the department maintenance, but would still like to do fire investigations and reports.
- Asst. Chief Ellis indicated he wanted to step down as Assistant Chief but would like to know how he could still be involved.
- There was much discussion on where to go from here
 - a. Eliminate Asst. Chief Position?
 - b. Chief's to take over responsibilities and Senior Captain to cover alarms
 - c. Capt. Freeman doesn't think it should be left for the Chief's to pickup
 - d. Deputy Chief Schaeffer indicated that if training was taken off his plate, he would be willing to take the maintenance over
 - e. Existing maintenance issues include: Dive Bus is leaking oil; front end on pickup, issues with Engine 2, fuel and water issues with Engine 4, Engine 1 dies. It was suggested to send one truck at a time to Bulldog for servicing until all the issues are resolved.
 - f. Once all the old issues have been cleaned up, there may not be a need for another person once the Chief goes full time.
 - g. Senior Captain Smith indicated he would be willing to help out until he retires
 - h. Deputy Chief Schaeffer feels that whoever may take over Asst. Chief position, it should be someone representative of the "volunteers" and not another full time person to avoid any possible discontentment
 - i. If Asst. Chief Ellis continues with investigations, then what would his title and position be within the department?
 - j. *It was agreed by all that the Board will accept Asst. Chief Ellis' resignation. If he would like to stay on and do fire investigations, he will be put back to the rank of firefighter and be assigned to a truck.***
 - k. *The Chiefs to speak with Asst. Chief Ellis and request a formal letter of resignation***
 - l. Once letter is received, we can post the new position
 - m. The previous Chief's positions were advertised, so doesn't that set a precedent that this position be advertised?

Personnel:

- Captain Brown has asked for a leave of absence until January.
- We need to distribute people appropriately in this department and fill the needs. We need to base decisions on what's best for the department and not for individuals.

- We need to work on the structure of the department in order to move forward.
- Manpower is low
- Idea was discussed about leaving one truck as a back up and rolling the others better staffed
- The Chief would like to invite the Selectmen to attend our next BOE meeting to discuss the future plans of the department based on the ideas from the "Committee of Officers". The Committee had prepared a power point presentation for the FinCom and Personnel Board, but it was agreed to have a less formal discussion with the Selectmen as a starting point.

New Business:

Equipment & Apparatus:

- Ladder Truck bay door is looking shabby
- Dan Dimond is going to service ambulance doors and will look at the Ladder door as well

Several months ago there was discussion about replacing Rob Young's position on the Board to represent the ambulance volunteers. We should post a notice to fill the position noting that it has to be a volunteer, not a full timer.

Meeting adjourned 5:45pm