

BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS
MONTHLY MEETING
11/18/14 @ 4:00PM

Present: Chief Peter Shemeth, Deputy Chief Alex Schaeffer, Asst. Chief Scott Ellis, Capt. Charlie Smith, Retired Capt. Dick Kelly, Capt. Geoff Freeman, Retired Deputy Chief Larry Thomas, Kara Shemeth and Anita Billings. Also present were: Lt. Andy Kelly, Lt. Jake Sylvia, and Selectmen Art Smadbeck

Meeting commenced at 4:05pm

Discussion with Selectmen Smadbeck:

- Thanks to Selectmen Smadbeck for coming
- The Chief explained that a committee was formed to discuss the future of the department and proposed stipend increases.
- The department has already changed the stipend pay to be more of an “incentive pay” whereas the more involved you are, the higher the stipend. Reward those that make an effort.
- It was discussed that on a national level volunteer departments are getting less and less due to increased state requirements for training and continued education and time away from work and family. We have a good group of members and we don’t want to lose them.
- The committee had discussed increasing stipend pay to \$5,000 per person.
- We have already changed pay to be more “incentive pay”, the more you do, the more you get.
- The Chief had talked to Pam and she discussed increasing the budget line item.
- There was discussion of rolling over any unused money from the line item to be used towards next’s year’s budget.
- Selectmen Smadbeck understands how much work is involved and has a lot of respect for what we do. He thought the rolling over of funds was a creative way of making the increase a gradual one over the next 3 or 4 years.
- Selectmen Smadbeck stated he would brief the other Selectmen on the plan to move forward.

Regular business

Reviewed and accepted minutes from October meeting
Reviewed and signed off on bills and payroll

Deputy Chief Schaeffer made a motion that the minutes from the prior meeting be emailed out and made available for review. Motion was seconded and approved by all.

Old Business:

Equipment:

- Who takes care of the radios? Lt. Sylvia has been doing it.
- The Chief is trying to deal with tires on Engine 1 and Engine 4. HTA doesn’t seem to think it’s a priority, so the Chief is looking at other avenues.
- Dimond Doors tested the door and fixed ambulance door. The Chief talked to him about Engine 1 and the Rescue doors. He didn’t think there was much we could do. Chief talked to Chief Rose about getting Oak Bluffs’ motors because they’re tearing down the station.
- There was a brief meeting on Sunday about the new Engine 1. There was discussion about what equipment to buy with the remaining funds from the Association from Bill Cress donations. Equipment included hydra assist, tool kits, blitz nozzle, and thermal imaging camera.

Training:

- New Engine 1 – we secured highway barn and got good overview of new truck. There are a few minor things that need to be improved. Everyone seems happy with it, it's easy to run. It was said that getting people involved in the building of the truck went a long way, and created a sense of pride.
- 267 - Training went well. There is new interest from a couple of people. There are a couple of minor issues, needs to be sent off this winter to be worked on.
- First Responder Training – Lt. Sylvia and Paramedic Klimek are working on a schedule, possibly sometime in January. It was stated that it would be nice to have our EMT's work the stations with the firefighters.

New Business:

Welcome to Kara Shemeth who is our new EMS Representative

Assistant Chief

- We had 3 members submit letters of interest for the position: Lt. Kelly, Capt. Koohy and Lt. Sylvia. We need to set up a time to review their letters and conduct interviews. It was agreed to meet Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 4pm.

Retirement:

- Firefighters have to retire from the department at 65. Is it the same for EMT's and Paramedics? The Town has approved changing retirement for EMS from group 1 to group 4.
- Kelly McCracken at the retirement board would like to see all Towns do it, but won't hold Edgartown back.
- If we move to group 4, everyone will have to retire at 65.

FY16 Town Meeting Articles:

- Articles have to be in by Thursday
- We are going to put in 2 articles, one for Jet Ski and one for replacement of 230
- Jet Ski = \$15,000. The Chief talked to the police and parks departments about a joint article. They are both in agreement.
- Where will Jet Ski be stored? Possibly at the Katama Landing in a shed purchased by all 3 departments.
- Replacement for 230 – Possibly a Ford F550 with a plow on the front
- What will the mission of the truck be? It is still unclear, but if we go with an F550, we have the ability to change the mission down the road.
- What about 93? We are going for replacement the following year

Meeting adjourned 5:40pm