

BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS
MONTHLY MEETING
12/9/14 @ 4:00PM

Present: Chief Peter Shemeth, Deputy Chief Alex Schaeffer, Asst. Chief Scott Ellis, Capt. Charlie Smith, Retired Capt. Dick Kelly, Retired Deputy Chief Larry Thomas, EMS Rep Kara Shemeth, Lt. Andrew Kelly and Anita Billings.

Meeting commenced at 4:00pm

Review and approved minutes from November meeting
Review budget balances and signed off on bills

Old Business:

Equipment, Apparatus & Maintenance:

- Tires on old Engine 1 & Engine 4 got switched. Thank You to Charlie and Highway Dept.
- HTA never responded back
- Garage door openers - The Chief picked up a couple of motors from OB Fire before tear down
- Old Engine 1 and Engine 5 are gone.
- Rescue truck is in the process of being re-lettered and sent up to Aquinnah
- Thermal imager – is being put on hold until we get more info. Camera we are looking for won't be released until February. This gives us a chance to look around for options.
- Engine 2 – Bulldog talked to the factory and they suggested replacing pump control with one similar to what's in the new Engine 1.
- We will get Engine 1 squared away after the holidays. Nothing serious, little things like leaking cabinet.
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer created emails for the trucks. Login info will be given to the officers. There should be no more excuses for not entering truck checks etc.

Training:

- Rescue jack training on Saturday went extremely well, approximately 15 people. Peter is willing to come back in the spring to do more extensive training.
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer also confirmed with Peter that he would be willing to incorporate OB Fire's tools in the training.
- First Responder class – Deputy Chief Schaeffer talked to Lt. Sylvia. They are looking at 1/26, 1/28, 1/31, 2/2, 2/4 and 2/7. They are looking at what instructors may be available.

Assistant Chief:

- The Board met and interviewed 3 candidates.
- It was a difficult decision as all 3 candidates were qualified, but Lt. Andrew Kelly was chosen.
- The Board welcomed and congratulated Lt. Kelly.
- The Chief has slips from Town Hall for Lt. Kelly and EMS Rep. Shemeth to be sworn into their new positions.
- Assistant Chief Ellis asked if he could remain on the Board of Engineers.
- ***Deputy Chief Schaeffer made a motion which was seconded and approved by all members for Assistant Chief Ellis to remain on the Board.***
- The Chief said he would get confirmation from the Selectmen
- It was asked if Assistant Chief Ellis could continue doing fire investigations.

- There's a question of liability for the Town if something happens while he's on a fire scene. The Chief will have to look into it further.

Retirement Group 4:

- It was brought to the attention of the Selectmen that Paramedic Cummins had planned to retire at 67 ½.
- If the Town moves forward with changing to Group 4, Paramedic Cummins would be forced to retire at 65.
- What options do we have to keep him happy?
- If the Town keeps just him in group 1, he would have to do paperwork at least 50% of the time, and that's not possible.
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer stated that after looking into it, it really only affects him right now if we did not move to group 4.
- It was decided for now to leave everyone in group 1 until Paramedic Cummins retires.
- It's thoughtful of the Town to look out for Paramedic Cummins, but now they have set the precedent to do the same for other employees.

New Business:

Budgets

- Budgets for FY16 are in. Pam said she would send out an email when we have to meet with FinCom. We increased expenses for Fire and EMS by 2.5%
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer asked that the article for the Jet Ski come from free cash so we can have the funds available before July.
- There will also be an article for Police/Fire/EMS upgrades to cover Sheriff's bill.

EMS Open House:

- EMT Shemeth did a great job at the open house.
- We have 5 people interested from Edgartown. 2 of them are department members (Randy Dull & Jovany Navarrete)
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer asked how many people we are willing to sponsor. \$600 per person would come from this year's budget, and balance wouldn't be due until next year.
- ***It was agreed by all members present to fund all 5 applicants.***

Fire Station Boiler:

- Do we have a plan for the boiler/heating system here at the station?
- The boiler has lost pressure and is leaking water
- The Chief asked Fullin Heating about options. Maybe mini splits vs. a new boiler.
- Our system is from the 1960's. There is so much wrong with the system, we can't afford to just put a band aid on it.
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer reached out to Supply New England about having someone come down and assess the situation.
- Plumbers Supply has someone that comes down every Tuesday as well.
- Alan Fortes deals with commercial systems. He might have some ideas.

Meeting adjourned 5:05pm