

TAMWORTH FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Board of Firewards Meeting November 5, 2020

Firewards Present: Jim Bowles, Harry Remick, John Hartley, Zach Remick, Dana Littlefield

Members Present: Capt. Diane Bowles

Public Present: None

Meeting Opened at 19:37 by Chairman Bowles

Minutes: The Board reviewed the October 1, 2020 minutes. Motion to approve made by J. Hartley, Second by H. Remick. All in favor.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Generator at Central Station is moved and wired. Chief Colcord has contacted Irving to get the gas hooked up and they are going to charge \$1200 even though we need to dig the trench and all they need to do is furnish and install approximately 25' of line. J. Bowles asked the Selectmen about the details of the Town's contract with Irving and they advised they thought there is no contract at this point. The Firewards agreed that in that case we should pursue alternatives.

John Hartley has removed the branches that were touching or nearly touching the east side of the roof on the Chocorua station.

The Mill Brook cistern is back in service. Chief Colcord and some volunteers installed well tiles over the access hole to raise the cover to ground level. Then a 6" semi-trash pump was rented from Coleman's for around \$200 and the cistern was pumped out. Stainless steel hardware cloth was installed in all of the 6" inlet holes. It was found that there is no bottom to the tank, the concrete walls sit on a couple feet of crushed stone that has a layer of woven plastic fabric under it. No signs of sand or gravel were found in the tank, the only issue was a growth of iron bacteria which was cleaned out by repeated filling and pumping of the tank. Thanks goes to the volunteers that helped and donated the use of equipment trailers, tools, pickups for getting supplies and the rental pump, and the use of Hartley Well's boom truck for raising and lowering things in and out of the tank.

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6A1 was found to have a leaking fuel tank. The tank has been replaced and the vehicle engine and chassis service was done while it was getting it's motor vehicle inspection done.

The State ambulance inspection was done on Tuesday 11/3/20. The ambulance was re-certified to the advance level but not to the paramedic level because we no longer have an active paramedic to maintain the drugs.

Other vehicle inspections are ongoing. There is a list of minor repairs for each truck that will be addressed at the same time.

New Business:

The septic tank at Central Station has been pumped and the site has been backfilled. Chief Colcord also re-graded the area in hopes of improving the surface drainage so it runs away from the station.

J. Bowles advised that the ILC contract with H-GAC has been fully executed so there will be no hold ups in purchasing the new forestry vehicle.

Lakes Region Fire Apparatus provided Chief Colcord and J. Bowles with the new forestry truck specs last week. Chief Colcord and J. Bowles found a couple changes that were needed so they have been sent back to the manufacturer (Alexis). It is expected the corrected version will be back soon and the purchase of the vehicle will be finalized. J. Bowles reminded everyone that the Firewards previously decided to make an advance payment of \$20,000 for towards the chassis this year and encumber the complete amount of the grant, \$179,937.42, which will be paid upon acceptance of the truck. J. Bowles advised that he made the Selectmen aware of the need to encumber the grant amount at tonight's selectmen's meeting.

A motion was made by J. Hartley to authorize Chairman J. Bowles to sign the contract/purchase order for the new forestry truck on behalf of the Board of Firewards. The motion was seconded by H. Remick and all voted in favor.

J. Bowles advised that he will attend the required H-GAC orientation webinar on 11/11/20.

J. Bowles advised that he consolidated some of the junk from behind S. Tamworth station and put a load in the dumpster. It will take several more loads to completely clean up, providing nobody drops off any more stuff.

Training for next Thursday is scheduled to be CPR recertification. Chief Colcord has advised that he will remind John Burdette that he had agreed to be the instructor.

It was mentioned that Chief Colcord should get prices for the siding and roofing at Chocorua station and updated electric services at Chocorua and Wonalancet stations so that contracts can be signed before the end of 2020 so that the money that was appropriated for this work at the 2020 town meeting can be encumbered.

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It was mentioned that the ambulance had been scheduled to be replaced in 2020 but we deferred this and did not put it in the 2020 budget. It was decided to request a warrant article to be put in the 2021 warrant that will add \$100,000 to the existing \$152,000 +/- that is already in capital reserve. The intent is not to purchase a new ambulance in 2021 but this will bring the capital reserve balance up so that a replacement ambulance could be purchased if the current ambulance has a major breakdown that is not worth fixing.

Grants for 2021 were discussed. Our air packs will be at the end of their lifespan in 2021. It was decided to pursue a grant for replacing the air packs. More research needs to be done to determine the exact costs but it was thought that the actual cost is \$8,000 to \$9,000 per pack and the federal grants will sometimes pay \$7,500 per pack.

The need to get help for the Chief and increase midweek daytime coverage was discussed at length. Chief Colcord currently feels that he is too busy to use all of his vacation and personal days. At this point in time he has around 112 hours of vacation time and 24 hours of personal time to use by the end of December 2020. Z. Remick distributed call volume statistics from 2016 to current. He also provided some cost estimates for per diem/part-time coverage. It was decided to put \$30,000 into the budget for part-time coverage. *(note: After the meeting J. Bowles remembered that this was tried on a smaller scale in 2019 and it was determined that it created issues with labor laws. After consulting with the Administrator of the NH Dept. of Labor on 5/9/19 the practice of paying hourly for members to do work for the Department was stopped.)*

Adjournment: Motion for adjournment at 21:14 made by J. Hartley. Seconded by Z. Remick. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Bowles, Chairman – Board of Firewards