

# TAMWORTH FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

## **Board of Firewards Meeting March 4, 2021**

**Firewards Present:** Jim Bowles, Harry Remick, John Hartley

**Members Present:** Capt. Diane Bowles, Asst. Chief Matt Baumann, FF Marsha Colcord

**Public Present:** None

**Meeting Opened at 19:49 by Chairman Bowles because one Fireward was running late.**

**Minutes:** The Board reviewed the February 4, 2021 minutes. Motion to approve made by J. Hartley, Second by H. Remick. All in favor.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Old Business:**

Kenny has not repaired the generator at Central Station yet. During the meeting M. Baumann texted Kenny again.

J. Bowles advised that he forgot to inform the Firewards that the furnace in Chocorua Station was replaced at the end of December 2020 at a cost of \$3,200 and the Wonalancet Station furnace completely stopped working in early February and had to be replaced at a cost of \$3,250. The heat exchangers in these Miller furnaces both wore out prematurely due to improper/incomplete cleaning.

### **New Business:**

J. Bowles updated the Board on the forestry truck purchase. On 2/28/21 Chief Colcord, J. Hartley, and J. Bowles met with Lakes Region Fire Apparatus and reviewed and signed off on the specs and shop drawings. The meeting was worthwhile in that several corrections were noted. Also Chief Colcord brought up the idea of extending the brush bars all the way to the back of the truck. LRFA recently got back to us with a cost of \$2,960 for this option. The position of extensions was discussed and it was agreed that if the brush bar extensions were located at the outside of the body, it would be worth it but if they were in line with the cab, they would not offer enough protection to warrant the cost. *Subsequent to the meeting J. Bowles discussed this with Glenn Davis at LRFA. It was determined that it is not reasonably possible to have the brush bars at the outside edge of the body so this option will not be pursued.*

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J. Bowles advised that FEMA has contacted us twice now to see how we are proceeding with the Forestry truck purchase. J. Bowles has provided FEMA with the requested information and FEMA has reported back that it has been accepted.

Chief Colcord's National Guard deployment has been extended to September 16, 2021. Several options for a longer term solution to covering the Chief's duties were discussed. One option discussed was to contact Municipal Resources Inc. to try and hire a temporary Chief similar to how the Town office was staffed when multiple employees left at the same time. It was noted that this is very expensive and J. Bowles commented that he anticipated it would take a lot of his time to get a temporary chief up to speed. J. Bowles commented that he would rather spend that time and effort either doing the work himself or preferably organizing/assisting existing members to do more of the work. It was mentioned that this could significantly impact the VIP point value and have a negative impact on the membership. J. Bowles advised that he could track this extra work separately and once the amount was known, we could do a budget line item transfer from the Chief's salary line item into the VIP line item so that the point value would be similar to previous years.

H. Remick will fix the leaky hot water faucet in the Central Station meeting room and whichever faucet(s) leak in the ambulance bay.

Concern was expressed about the negative impact that the Covid 19 restrictions have had on membership training and preparedness as well as equipment testing and maintenance. It was felt that between the number of members that have been vaccinated or already had the virus, it is reasonable to resume regular trainings. Trainings will be specifically designed to promote social distancing and Covid 19 safety protocols will be followed.

Discussed two members that have expressed interest in returning to TFR. It was discussed that the member left in good standing and would be welcomed back but the Firewards would want to do a thorough background check and meet with the other one before allowing back because that member did not leave in good standing.

M. Baumann advised that Car 1 will be going to OME to get its new radio on 3/17/21.

**Adjournment:** Motion for adjournment at 21:15 made by J. Hartley. Seconded by H. Remick. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Bowles, Chairman – Town of Tamworth Board of Firewards