

TAMWORTH FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Board of Firewards Meeting December 7, 2023

Firewards Present: J. Bowles, J. Hartley, Z. Remick

Members Present: Chief R. Colcord, 2nd Asst. Chief M. Baumann, Capt. D.K. Bowles, Capt. D. Cribbie, FF J. Larocque

Public Present: None

Meeting Opened at 19:32 by Chairman Bowles

Minutes: The Board reviewed the November 2, 2023 minutes and the October 5, 2023 minutes. There was one misspelling that was corrected in the November 2 minutes. J. Hartley made a motion to accept, Z. Remick seconded all were in favor.

Old Business:

The new battery for the cardiac monitor has not come yet. Haven't heard anything since we did the credit application so Chief Colcord will check on them.

Discussed the budget related requests from the Selectmen. The Board Agreed to lower the operating budget request by \$10,000 by taking \$5,000 from the part-time salaries line item and \$5,000 from the equipment line item.

The Board also agreed to split the 2024 request to add \$375,000 to the Firetruck Capital Reserve Fund into two years as long as it can be done in such a way that the second half is guaranteed in 2025 so that a contract for the next firetruck can be signed as soon as practical after the 2024 town meeting. The estimated delivery times are now around 550 days, so the truck will not be delivered until late in 2025.

J. Bowles advised that he has not submitted the paperwork to the Town Office for the final payment (the initial payment was made in 2021) of the Chief's back pay as was agreed to at the October meeting but did talk to the Town Administrator and Finance Officer today to advise that it will be coming. *(As a reminder, this is because when the Chief was originally hired, the contract agreement was that when he got the required certifications, the Department would increase his pay \$5,000 per year to match what the previous chief had been getting. This did not happen for a period of 5 years after the certifications were obtained.)*

New Business:

The new SCBA and compressor/fill station have been ordered. Need to make sure we spend the Town's portion of this purchase before the end of 2023. SCBA mask fit testing is being performed tonight and next Thursday night. J. Bowles will email instructions on how to break out the invoices for the SCBA to the vendor this weekend.

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Chief Colcord advised that since we can no longer use the Firehouse Software to track and submit call reports to the National Fire Incident Reporting System, he will discontinue paying the annual fee. He will talk to D. Cribbie about creating a spreadsheet to keep track of training and activities because the ESR Software cannot report on those things monthly as needed for payroll.

Chief Colcord advised that something is wrong with Forestry 2 that is causing it to have no electrical power. He will talk to LRFA about troubleshooting it.

Chief Colcord advised that he has ordered a new combustible gas sensor for E5's gas meter.

The light tower, and ATV forestry trailer are at S. Tamworth Station for the winter.

Discussed potentially contracting with Central Maine Cost Recovery to do ambulance billing like Effingham and Center Ossipee departments have recently. It was mentioned that ambulance billing was tried once before and since TFR doesn't do a lot of hospital transports, it wasn't worth the old billing company's annual fee. This company does not have an annual fee. There is a \$500-\$1,000 cost to get set up for Medicaid but after that there are no fees, as the company takes 10% of the bills as their payment. It was mentioned that we could also bill for some of the costs associated with motor vehicle crashes. No one was sure if the revolving account that was previously set up so that the recovered money would go back into the budget to be used for related supplies has expired. *Note: After the meeting J. Bowles checked the wording of the article, which was Article #15 of the 2020 Warrant, and found that it does not expire. The article specifically states that it was established under RSA 31:95-h which does allow for recovering for other than medical supply expenses, but the warrant article was written specifically as an Ambulance Service Revolving Fund and that "These funds may be expended only for ambulance supplies as stated in RSA Chapter 31."*

It was mentioned that recently there were no 4" hose spanners on E4. Chief Colcord will get some.

Chief Colcord advised that he has sent the thermal imager from E5 that had the issue with the display screen to Flir for repairs. They estimate approximately 4 weeks for repairs.

Adjournment: Motion for adjournment made by J. Hartley at 20:30. Seconded by Z. Remick, all in favor.

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