

# TAMWORTH FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

## **Board of Firewards Meeting October 7, 2021**

**Firewards Present:** Jim Bowles, John Hartley, Harry Remick, Z. Remick, D. Littlefield.

**Members Present:** Chief R. Colcord, Capt. Diane Bowles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief M. Baumann, FF M. Colcord

**Public Present:** None

**Meeting Opened at 19:30 by Chairman Bowles**

**Minutes:** The Board reviewed the September 2, 2021 minutes. Motion to approve made by H. Remick, Seconded by J. Hartley. D. Littlefield abstained since he wasn't present for the meeting, all others voted in favor.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Old Business:**

The new Forestry 1 has been to Ossipee Mtn. Electronics and had its radio installed. It has been lettered by Snow Signs and is in service. There are still some punch list things remaining. Rich has been in touch with LRFA regarding these.

R. Colcord will again pursue the repair of the Central Station generator.

R. Colcord will touch base with Gus Descoulias ref. updating the electric services at Wonalancet & Chocorua stations.

R. Colcord will install the new overhead door in the rear of Central Station.

There was considerable discussion about the fact that the Department did not increase Chief Colcord's pay for approximately 5 years after he got the certifications that were stipulated in his contract at the time. 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. It was suggested that since the Chief was deployed until early July this year, the Department should use some of the unspent money in the salary line item to fulfill at least some of the obligation. There was some discussion about the exact number of years and which years he was deployed for. Although the total amount likely comes to \$20,000 or \$25,000 the Board felt that this was too much to manage. J. Hartley made a motion to pay the Chief \$10,000 out of the 2021 budget for this past-unmet obligation. H. Remick seconded and all voted in favor. J. Hartley requested that J. Bowles be sure to show that \$10,000 is not the total amount when submitting the bill.

# TAMWORTH FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

## **New Business:**

J. Hartley suggested that floor mats be purchased for the new Forestry 1. Others agreed and R. Colcord advised that he will get some.

The Board worked with the Chief on the 2022 budget proposal. Most line items will stay the same as the 2021 budget with a couple exceptions.

More money will be added to the Volunteer Incentive Program line item. The intent is not to increase the value of volunteer incentive points but to allow the Chief and others to encourage more members to help with daily coverage and maintenance of the Department. There was discussion about switching from a volunteer department to a call department where members are paid an hourly rate for activities. It was agreed that there would be additional administrative costs to manage this and it seems that other departments that have become call departments still have the same challenges attracting and retaining active members as volunteer departments do. J. Hartley made a motion to increase this line item by \$20,000. H. Remick seconded and all voted in favor.

The Chief's salary item was also increased. J. Hartley made a motion to increase the Chief's salary 6% to account for this year's and several past year's cost of living increases. H. Remick seconded and all voted in favor.

**Adjournment:** Motion for adjournment at 21:50 made by J. Hartley. Seconded by Z. Remick. All in favor.

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