

TAMWORTH FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Board of Firewards Meeting December 2, 2021

Firewards Present: Jim Bowles, John Hartley, Z. Remick

Members Present: Chief R. Colcord, Capt. Diane Bowles

Public Present: None

Meeting Opened at 19:33 by Chairman Bowles

Minutes: The Board reviewed the November 3, 2021 minutes. Motion to approve made by J. Hartley, Seconded by Z. Remick

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Lakes Region Fire Apparatus has the new Forestry 1 to finish the punch list including the direct tank fill.

Central Station generator is still out of service.

Nothing new to report on the electric service upgrades at Wonalancet and Chocorua stations.

Chief Colcord will order the floor mats for the new Forestry 1 once the spending freeze is lifted.

New Business:

Chief Colcord advised that the Town spending freeze has impacted his ability to make the planned equipment purchases. J. Bowles advised that this is a temporary situation caused by the tax rate being set late. Since tax bills have been coming out in the last few days, the spending freeze should be lifted soon. As long as it doesn't last too long we should still be able to get planned equipment purchases made before the end of the year. If it lasts another week or two it may be necessary to encumber some of the 2021 equipment budget. *(Note: We were notified that the spending freeze has been lifted the next day, Friday 12/3/21.)*

It was determined that our SCBA bottles were last hydro tested in 2017 so would not be up for hydro testing until 2022. This may be a mute point since the bottles were manufactured in 2006 and have a 15 year life span.

J. Bowles advised that the 1997 5 Ton Stewart Stevenson that the State is getting for us to replace our 1976 2-1/2 ton was delivered to S. Tamworth Station on 11/10/21. The

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December business meeting will be at S. Tamworth Station to begin planning the swapping of the tank, pump, hose reels, and equipment from the old 1976 AM General truck to this newer one. There was some discussion about whether to paint the new truck in house or pay to have it painted. No decision was made.

Chief Colcord hasn't heard back from Pine Tree Power about reimbursing us for some turnout gear that was damaged at a recent call at their facility. It was confirmed that this is not a requirement, it would just be a nice gesture.

Z. Remick will ask Dave Cribbie to come up with something for December's fire training.

Z. Remick brought up that Al Hooper from Specialty Vehicles Inc. contacted him to see if we are interested in a Dodge/Cummins ambulance that they just built as a demonstrator. The price is \$310,000. Since the price of aluminum (and many other things) is going up Al expects that the prices for new vehicles will be going up quickly. In order to purchase this vehicle we would need sign papers very soon. Since there is only approximately \$250,000 in the Rescue Vehicle capital reserve fund at this time, we would need to finance the rest. The Board agreed that the taxpayers have not approved an article authorizing us to finance/lease a portion of a rescue vehicle so this is not an option at this time. We will proceed with the original plan which is to submit a warrant article for \$70,000 to be added to the Rescue Vehicle capital reserve fund in 2022 and proceed from there.

Z. Remick advised that the SCBA grant application is almost done.

Z. Remick advised that based on the difficulty that Conway Village Fire/Rescue Dept. is having trying to replace their chief's vehicle, we may need to increase the amount of our 2022 warrant article from \$52,000 to \$65,000 or \$70,000. In addition to the increase in price, they are finding that there are no available vehicles and if ordered, delivery is not expected until 2023 or 2024. Z. Remick also heard that Milton Fire has been told the same thing.

J. Hartley made a motion to increase the 2022 Chief's vehicle warrant article from \$52,000 to \$65,000 and make it a Capital Reserve fund in case a vehicle can't be found until 2023 or 2024. Seconded by Z. Remick, all in favor.

Run cards: Zach presented a new draft for review. C1 & C2 will review.

Adjournment: Motion for adjournment at 20:39 made by J. Hartley. Seconded by Z. Remick. All in favor.

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