

NVFD Monthly Business Meeting
January 7, 2007
Called to order @7:30

President Denny presiding.

Secretary's Report:

- December's Business Meeting minutes accepted as emailed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Accepted as presented.

LCD:

- 2 former part time employees have returned to work.
- Dispatcher Wally Chase has resigned.
- Scott Schreiber is now a fulltime dispatcher.
- The Executive director job is to be posted.
- The use of plain language began January 1, 2008.

Chief:

- North Canaan Fire Company sends their thanks for our assistance at the 1/5/08 Quinn Street structure fire.
- The tanker valve has been installed over the weekend and should be operational soon. The valve was purchased with department funds.
- As in the treasurers report we are about 60% of our town budget. Some items have been ordered to replace equipment and maintain some the equipment and turn out gear. The gear inspection on the 12/30 found several PPE items needed replacement mostly boots. If you have not had you r gear checked the wardens will be tracking you down these inspections are important and need to be done.
- If you have not filled out an information sheet for the Salamander Accountability System please get it done and turned into Richard B. Photos also need to be taken so that will be done as well in the near future.
- If you use a blue light, please fill out the blue light roster on the board. It needs to be sent in to the state at the end of the month.
- I have contacted American Lafrance in regards to rumors of financial problems with the company. I have been assured that these are just rumors which stem from the separation from freightliner.
- H.R. 3997 was passed 12/12/07. Sec. 105 Allows members of a qualified volunteer emergency response organization (i.e., an organization that provides firefighting and emergency medical services) an exclusion from gross income for state and local tax benefits and for certain payments for services. I have checked with the selectman office to see haw this can benefit us.
- The line officers met with VFIS and recommend we budget for the increase in the total benefit of our policy from twenty thousand to Two hundred thousand dollars.

This increases our annual premium from approximately \$1600 to \$3200. This will be a budgeted item next fiscal year.

- Reminder to utilize plain language when using the radios, no more signals.
- The department budget for the town is due to the selectman's office 2/15. Any one with a budget item request please see myself or Ron Zanobi as soon as possible so we can present a budget to the department in February.
- I recommend Paul P. chair a by-law review committee.
- The excess property fund through DEP has been updated.
- Ted H. has completed the Dry hydrant request for DEP grant. This is a matching grant.
- The "emergency scene ahead" signs have been made please utilize them when operating on any road way with traffic cones pattern. They will be located on U50 with stands.
- I have signed mutual aid agreement to participate in the Region Rope Rescue Team. U50 will be dispatched to respond. Those who are not rope rescue team members your help is still needed. Just because you may not hang from a rope doesn't mean you can't respond with team members. If our tones go off please report to the Firehouse so we can utilize you as a resource. We may also be asked to provide standby for others as well.
- The parade committee has placed soda in the fridge for sale. The honor system applies so please support them.
- I considered the Irish band return, however after speaking with them, Jim, and the organizers, it would be too costly for us. The cost for the band is \$2,500. Last year there were only 75 people who attended and they only charged \$15 per person. However last years organizers had made a profit from donations. But I cannot guarantee the donations. I recommend we do not hire this band until we can afford to do so.
- Matt L. was using his personal laptop to program the radios and pagers in house saving us the cost of Pittsfield Communications doing it. His computer is no longer functioning. I would like the department to purchase a new laptop for the department officers to utilize for this purpose as well as others in house such as training, GIS mapping, preplans, inventory Etc. In reviewing this need I would also like to see one purchased for the secretary's use as well. After speaking with Jim Hotchkiss the cost should not exceed \$1500 for both. In conjunction with this purchase I have seen the need for wireless Internet in the firehouse. I would recommend the purchase of a wireless system that would be restricted to departmental use for less than \$100 (*see motion under new business*).
- Reminder if you use any department equipment please let one of the three chiefs know. Again we had items taken from the firehouse that had to be tracked down. We don't mind if you borrow stuff we just need to know who has it and why.
- I would request that fire prevention photo books be purchased at the cost of \$447 and that Sandy E. oversees this project since we would provide the photos of the kids as well (*see motion under new business*).
- I have sent a mutual aid plan for Drakeville fire department to their chief for South Norfolk it is posted on the board.

Wardens:

- 2 SCBA packs are out of service.
- At this time, both the PTO pump and the portable pump are out of service on the tanker.
- Any old hose remaining in service is now on Engine 60.

Training Officer:

- This month's training schedule will be emailed to the membership.

Mechanics:

- No Report.

Fire Police:

- No Report.

Explorers:

- The Post members are writing a letter to the Chief regarding the 7PM response curfew.

Correspondence:

The following correspondence were received:

- A letter regarding the Battistoni donation.
- A resignation letter from Rob B.
- An invitation from Steve Williams (Winsted) to train for the Sky Warn weather system. See the Chief if interested.
- A letter regarding the Norfolk tax relief for emergency volunteers.
- A request from East River Energy regarding snow removal from around fuel storage tank.
- A letter from the Board of Education regarding an on-going window replacement project at the Botelle School.
- A letter of thanks was received from the Canaan Fire Company's Board of Directors for our recent contribution to the Brian Carley fund.

Old Business:

Building Committee: No Report.

Truck Committee: No Report.

Insurance Committee: See Chief's report above.

House Committee: No Report. Thanks given for late night refreshments from Sandy.

Conversation regarding officer cell phone numbers was entertained.

ATV Committee: A smokeless tobacco grant has been applied for.

- Thanks to all who participated in the Santa Delivery fundraiser. \$470 was raised. The Santa suits need to be cleaned and inspected for replacement parts.

New Business:

- A motion was moved and seconded to authorize Daryl Byrne, the Chief, to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut, Division of Forestry, for the purpose of executing the 2007 dry hydrant grant program and to provide such additional information needed to execute such an agreement. The motion was carried.
- A motion was supported to purchase 2 laptops and supporting hardware not to exceed \$2000 pending Board of Trustees approval.
- A motion to purchase fire prevention photograph books to hand out during events at the cost of \$447 for 250 books was supported.
- A motion was approved to spend up to \$600 for gold leaf lettering on the rear of Engine 90 pending Board of Trustees approval.
- A motion approved the deposit of the Battistoni check, in its entirety, into the truck fund.
- The Norfolk DOT maintenance garage will be contacted to request that the Wood Creek driveway be plowed.
- Ted H. is currently reviewing and updating the training files of all members.
- A motion to accept the by-laws change proposal made last month was defeated.
- The DEP will revisit the recent oil spill site at the school.
- Paul P. was appointed by-law review committee chair, with Arthur R., John H., & Joe G. serving on the committee.
- A by-law change proposal was presented and will be posted.

A motion to adjourn was approved at 9:05.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Paul Padua.

Bylaw Change: (Submission Date: Jan 7, 2008)

Article VII, Section 6 P1 (Attendance at Practices and Meetings)

Addendum (Insert after '(2) Practices')

Or alternative trainings/seminars/certifications. Verification of attendance will be required.

Rationale:

Allows for greater scope of training among membership