

**West Ossipee Fire Commissioners  
Sunday, July 5, 2009  
Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Joseph Goss and Henry Ela

Others Present: Chief Brad Eldridge, Dep. Chief Carl Huddleston and Asst. Fire Chief Don Eldridge

Minutes Taken By: Marilyn Bolduc

Commissioner J. Goss called the meeting to order at 8:13 am.

**Mail Folder** -- A fax from the State of New Hampshire Governor's Office regarding the signing of SB 75 regarding the establishment of the West Ossipee Fire Precinct as a Village District under RSA 52 is legalized, ratified and confirmed and the ratification of the bond warrant passed on January 10, 2009. This bill was signed and went into effect on June 30, 2009. A copy of the fax is attached to these meeting notes.

**Manifest** -- The payroll for June 2009 of \$8,430.00 was approved; passed 2-0.

Chief Eldridge reported in order to keep payroll costs down, a department officer at the call scene will assess the situation and determine if additional department personnel is needed. As the situation demands, additional personnel will be cancelled or proceed to the scene. In many cases, only 1 or 2 firefighters are needed.

**Jewell Hill Construction Update** -- Chief Eldridge explained the process the SB 75 Bill went through after house of Congress had passed it. Once a bill is passed by both Houses, it must go through several offices before it reaches the governor's desk. There is no specific time frame for the bill to get to the governor's desk. With constant communication from Chief Eldridge, Attorney Slack, Senator Bradley and our Representatives, the bill was expedited through the process. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Chief Eldridge received the call that the bill had been signed. M. Ferland has faxed everyone of the bill's passage and we should have the official paperwork by Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. Carol Searcy needed updated paperwork which M. Ferland has sent her. The Bond Council has all the information they need; we're waiting for their response. The bond paperwork will have to be reviewed by Attorney Slack and signed by the commissioners. The paperwork will then be hand delivered and a check

should be issued in 10-14 days.

Chief Eldridge has notified the contractors of the bond status. As soon as the funds become available check will be sent to Jon Cyr to pay his invoice.

**MRI Meeting** -- The commissioners will be meeting with the MRI committee members on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Central Station. Commissioner Goss invited all the department's members to attend the meeting and to bring questions to ask the MRI committee. Chief Eldridge said the truck inventories are done and M. Ferland is typing them up. The off-truck inventory needs to be completed along with major purchases. Commissioner Goss asked to see the inventories before the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting for review. Chief Eldridge stated he has talked with other departments that have gone through feasibility studies. Usually the findings are in favor of the agencies and they also recommend the need for the agency to take over ambulance service.

Chief Eldridge stated that over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, Medstar had 3 vehicles out of service. They did have replacement vehicles available for calls. Even though these replacement vehicles were older models, Golden Cross/Speedway Safety had them well equipped and clean inside.

**Other Business** -- The precinct's air boat sank during a rescue on the Bearcamp River on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is up against a snag of fallen trees and debris in about 12 feet of water. Recovery is not possible until the river recedes. It's located just north of the entrance of the Chocorua River and is accessible from Route 16. The boat is tied off to the bank. Chief Eldridge has met with Marine Patrol regarding the investigation of the rescue. The insurance company has been called and Chief Eldridge will follow up with them on Monday. Commissioner Goss said Chief Eldridge should contact Doug Murphy, who is experienced in water salvage to get the boat out. An experience water salvager should be used to minimize any additional damage to the boat. The console is damaged as is the radio on the boat. Chief Eldridge has a current inventory of the boat contents. Some of the inventory was off of the boat as it was not needed for this rescue. Commissioner Goss said that there should be one insurance claim covering all equipment that was lost or compromised during this rescue. This includes what was on the boat and what individual responders' equipment lost or compromised.

Chief Eldridge will review the policy, but he believes that mobile equipment is not 100% replacement value. He estimated the approximate cost of equipment loss is \$10,000.00. Until the air boat is repaired or replaced, Madison, Tuftonboro, and Center Ossipee have equipment on standby for West Ossipee to use. Westwood Shores Marina has offered the precinct a boat when needed.

Chief Eldridge will check for programs/grants to pay for 2 jet skis and an air boat. There is a need for both jet skis and an air boat depending on the rescue. He will also look into lease/purchase programs. Jet skis are very useful and you need limited personnel to operate them. There is no one perfect piece of rescue equipment to cover water rescues on the market.

Chief Eldridge will also talk with our local representatives, marine patrol and the State's attorney general office about controlling access to rivers during dangerous high water. The Bearcamp River has a gauge that measures the flow of the river. Commercial canoe/kayak rental businesses do not put boats on the rivers when the flow exceeds a certain stage. It's the private boat owner that puts a boat in when the river is too fast and then has problems. If the river access points could be posted, then maybe there would be fewer rescues. The precinct also needs to reserve the right for restitution to cover the costs and expenses that are not covered by insurance.

Prior to this rescue, Chief Eldridge had told the boater not to enter the river, but the boater ignored him and put his family on the river. Everyone is okay. Medstar checked everyone out and no one had to be hospitalized.

Chief Eldridge stated that the line gun the department currently has is not powerful enough to get a line all the way across the river. We need to look into a more powerful line gun. Because of the size of the gun needed, he'll need to meet with the police department for approval.

West Ossipee Fire Department participated in the Ossipee July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. The Department Honor Guard and the Explorer Junior Firefighters and Engine 1 lead the Safety Division of the parade. The Honor Guard won first place honors in the parade. Chief Eldridge said the parade viewers were very impressed with the Honor Guard and the guard looked very sharp in their uniforms. The 6 members of the Explorer program were in their uniforms and the crowd was impressed with the members and the program's existence.

M. Ferland is working on the grant paperwork for station equipment. The paperwork deadline is July 15<sup>th</sup>. The grant paperwork includes the Jewell Hill Station exhaust system and the Central Station electric upgrade. She is also doing grant paperwork for an administration office to house offices, a training room, a meeting room and a kitchen. This grant application falls under Homeland Security.


Chief Eldridge stated that the Town will be releasing funds to the precinct next week to pay invoices and expenses.

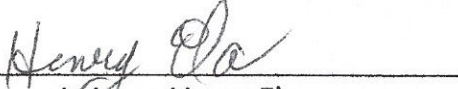
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; passed 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 am.

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Minutes Approved: July 12, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Joseph Goss

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Henry Ela

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Paul Jay



# State of New Hampshire Governor's Office State House

Concord, NH 03301

TEL (603) 271-2121  
FAX (603) 271-8788

# Fax

**To:** Chief Brad Eldridge,  
W. Ossipee Fire Department

**From:** Governor John Lynch

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**Fax:** 539-6898

**Pages:** 5

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**Phone:**

**Date:** 7/1/09

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**Re:** SB 75 was signed on 6/30/09

**CC:**

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

• **Comments:**

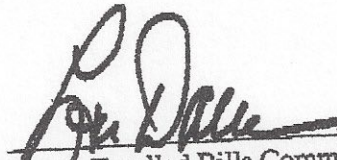
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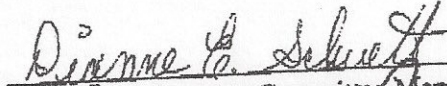
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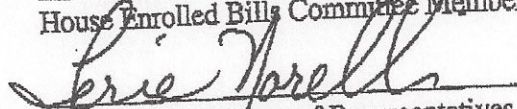
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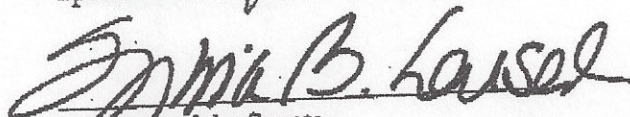
Senate Bill No. 75

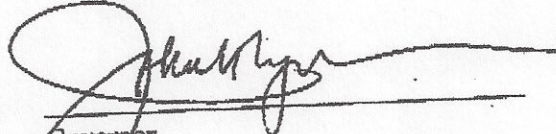
An Act changing the formula for distribution of highway funds in the Woodsville fire district and ratifying the establishment of the West Ossipee fire precinct as a village district.

  
Senate Enrolled Bills Committee Member

  
House Enrolled Bills Committee Member

  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

  
President of the Senate

  
Governor

Approved:

Effective Date:

Due Back from the Governor:

7/6/09

BY   
SECRETARY OF STATE

2009 JUN 30 P 1:20

PRESENTED TO  
THE  
GOVERNOR

## SB 75 - FINAL VERSION

03Jun2009... 1659h

2009 SESSION

09-0159

06/03

SENATE BILL

75

AN ACT

changing the formula for distribution of highway funds in the Woodsville fire district and ratifying the establishment of the West Ossipee fire precinct as a village district.

SPONSORS: Sen. Reynolds, Dist 2; Rep. Ladd, Graf 5; Rep. Ingbretson, Graf 5

COMMITTEE: Public and Municipal Affairs

## AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Provides a formula for determining the amount attributable to the town of Haverhill for appropriation to the highway funds in the Woodsville fire district.

II. Ratifies the establishment of the West Ossipee fire precinct as a village district.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

## SB 75 - FINAL VERSION

03Jun2009... 1659h

09-0159  
06/03

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nine*

AN ACT changing the formula for distribution of highway funds in the Woodsville fire district and ratifying the establishment of the West Ossipee fire precinct as a village district.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1       1 Distribution of Highway Funds in Woodsville Fire District. Amend 1887, 204:3, as amended  
2 by 1899, 196:2 and 1990, 97:1, to read as follows:  
3       SECT. 3. Said district at each annual meeting shall elect by ballot a moderator, a clerk, one  
4 auditor, a treasurer, and three commissioners. All of said officers shall be elected by a majority vote  
5 of all the voters present and voting at the annual meeting. Said officers shall exercise in relation to  
6 district meetings the like powers to those of moderator, clerk, and selectmen of towns. The  
7 commissioners shall have within the district all the powers of the mayor and aldermen of any city  
8 respecting highways, sidewalks, and sewers. They shall control and direct the expenditure of all  
9 moneys raised under authority of the district and by the town of Haverhill for expenditure in the  
10 district. They shall have sole authority to appoint a highway surveyor in said district, and in default  
11 of such appointment shall themselves perform the duties of that office. The surveyor or  
12 commissioners performing the duties of highway surveyor in the district shall give bond to the town  
13 to account for all money coming into their hands, and for the proper care and custody of the property  
14 of the town or district which may come into their custody or control, and shall be deemed officers of  
15 the town. Nothing in this act shall be construed to impose any distinct or special liability upon the  
16 district respecting highways within its limits. Vacancies that may occur in the office of  
17 commissioner in the district shall be filled by appointment of the remaining commissioners or  
18 commissioner, but any commissioner appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office only until the next  
19 annual district meeting. Commissioners shall be residents of the district. The money appropriated  
20 for the distribution of highway funds in the district which is attributable to the town of Haverhill  
21 shall ~~[not exceed 20 percent of the total amount of expenditures authorized at the town meeting]~~ be  
22 *determined by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the assessed valuation of the*  
23 *properties in the district, and the denominator of which shall be the assessed valuation of*  
24 *the properties in the entire town of Haverhill as determined annually from the town MS-1*  
25 *form. The town of Haverhill shall appropriate the percentage represented by such fraction*  
26 *for distribution to the highway fund in care of the Woodsville fire district commissioners.*  
27 *The district shall also receive a proportionate share of the state highway block grant funds*  
28 *received by the town in the previous year based on the population and road mileage of the*  
29 *district compared to the population and road mileage of the entire town of Haverhill.*