

Joint Fire Precinct Commissioners Meeting  
Center Ossipee Precinct, Ossipee Corner Precinct,  
West Ossipee Precinct Joint Meeting  
Center Ossipee Station  
Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 7 PM

Commissioners: Center Ossipee: Jim Dolan, Bob Freeman; Ossipee Corner: Lynne Parker, George Moynahan, Jr., Jim Spencer; West Ossipee: Joseph Goss

Fire Chief: Center Ossipee: Mike Brownell, Ossipee Corner: Adam Riley; West Ossipee: Brad Eldridge

Others Present: Brian and April Johns, Medstar

Minutes Taken By: Marilyn Bolduc, West Ossipee Precinct Clerk

The meeting was opened by J. Goss at 7:00 pm. With the budget season coming up, he thought it would be time for the three precincts to get together and discuss future purchases and plans. It had been hoped that the MRI Study would be available to be discussed, but it was not available as of October 5<sup>th</sup> per L. Parker.

M. Brownell said that right now Center Ossipee is not planning on making any major purchases; maybe some hose and some personal gear.

A. Riley said the three precincts have been doing joint training sessions this year. The three precincts have compatible equipment. When they need assistance or equipment from each other, everything is identical and they don't have to have special adaptors or training to use the equipment.

West Ossipee is planning to purchase turnout gear for the both the firefighters and junior program and hose. M. Brownell said in the past he has had some problems with turnout gear he purchased from Globe. It only lasted a couple years and he got no satisfaction from the manufacturer. He now get his gear from another manufacturer. West Ossipee will doing mandatory testing on their ladders. Usually the testing for all three precincts are done on consecutive days. West Ossipee is working with the insurance company to replace the boat before winter. They would like to get a more stable boat, but it depends on what will be



covered by the insurance. West Ossipee will not be replacing any engines; they will be working on the new Jewell Hill Station.

Ossipee Corner is looking to replace an engine. It will have to be custom build to fit into the station. Due to mandated requirements and NFPA requirements, cost of new engines are going up. There is only one chassis that now meets the standards. Departments are now looking for good used engines.

West Ossipee started a Junior Explorer program. It is going very well and they have 8 members. The members are committed and the program will continue as long as there is interest. The junior members cannot go into buildings or on the aerial or ladders. They have their own policies and must meet levels regarding grades and parental guidelines. The program is run by two lieutenants. Insurance was the big thing with the program and they are covered by the precinct policy. The program is open to all 14 year olds and up in the town, not just the West Ossipee Precinct. If the other precincts would like to help with the program, their assistance is welcomed. The young members are dedicated, get paid for the work they do, get training, and can take their Level I Firefighter test when they turn 18. Center Ossipee and Ossipee Corner have programs for 16 year olds and up.

There will be a Chain Saw class coming up on October 17<sup>th</sup> that is open to all firefighters. West Ossipee will be having a Blood I Pathogens and Emergency Vehicle Operations in January 2010. Local government Center is a great wealth of information and will come to your location to conduct classes.

The MRI Feasibility Study Draft was received by the Town selectmen on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. As soon as it is available, each precinct will go to the selectmen's office for a copy. L. Parker said it should give everyone some good information. There will be information to help improve services. J. Dolan said the three precincts should meet again after all the commissions have reviewed the information. At the September 28<sup>th</sup> selectmen's meeting, the question was raised if the selectmen will be meeting with the precincts to review the Feasibility Study and the selectmen said they would be. It is in the selectmen's meeting minutes. When the final report comes out, there may be a public meeting. The report will help the Budget Committee and the taxpayers see what is needed to run the precincts. People do not see the full scope of what is need for life safety until the need it for themselves individually. Everyone will gain from the study.



Ossipee Corner sees it as a tool for a new station. Ossipee Corner area has the biggest potential growth area of the whole town.

Brian Johns, Operation Manager for Medstar Ambulance Services, was introduced. He reviewed what he has done within Medstar to improve services and his future plans for the service. He acknowledged that there has been some rocky times in the past and he is working very hard to resolve the issues. He and his wife April are paramedics. There are 5 ambulances inspected and in service. Two are paramedic level vehicles and 3 are advance life support vehicles. In the near future, there will be sixth vehicle in service. Medstar has 12 full time EMT or Paramedic personnel in house to man the vehicles, with 4 part time employees and 4-5 part time per diem employees available. Sixty percent of the employees are advance life support trained. Medstar has a training program in place and they are offering CPR courses and intermediate and paramedic refresher courses to anyone in the area. They have an in-house mechanic and maintenance program of their fleet. Every vehicle has been gone through completely and have passed all inspections.

B. Johns would like to come to each precinct and have the department personnel check the setup in his vehicles. The vehicles contents are labeled and carry the same contents in the same locations. Supplies are stocked above requirements. Their new motto is "meet and exceed". The goal is to have 8 ambulances and a wheelchair van in service by spring. By the new year, a RV is planned to be in service to have on fire scenes for use by the firefighters to warm up in and get coffee, etc. A travel trailer for use by fire victims is in the future plans. This will give the fire victims a warm place to stay until Red Cross can make arrangements for them. In the future, Brian would like to have some heavy rescue tools on board for supplement backup use. Also, Brian would like to work with the first responders and offer free to the public CPR classes.

Medstar has put into place procedures to help improve the communication between them and the fire departments. This will determine who is in charge of patient care and help resolve on scene incidents. He is asking if there are any problems that they be written up. He will then discuss the incident with the fire departments. He wants to establish open communication lines between Medstar and all fire departments. Issues with patient care should also be directed to the Huggins Hospital coordinator. Any issues with operational or contractual problems should be directed to Brian.



B. Johns said that North Conway Ambulance was purchased by Care Plus. Medstar will no longer accept paramedic intercepts from North Conway Ambulance/Care Plus due to their high billing costs and their refusal to submit written run reports when on a Medstar vehicle. He asks that a protocol review be done before calling in a paramedic. Most calls do not need a paramedic; allow the EMT basics and intermediates do their jobs. If one of the fire departments provides a paramedic assist on a Medstar ambulance, please submit documentation for services rendered.

B. Johns will not be responding to every call due to his management duties, but he can always be called.

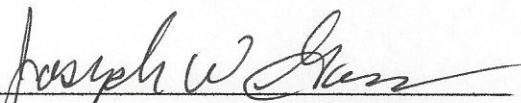
EMT Basic classes are scheduled for November, check the website for the schedule. J. Goss asked Brian about doing basic first aid classes for the Explorers and setting up courses for the fire department personnel to keep the qualifications current. Brian said he'd get figures for the department's budget.

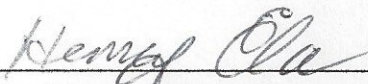
B. Johns said if there were any problems or concerns to call him. He is working on improved response time and will be stationing vehicles in other areas of the town soon.

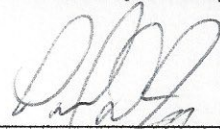
With no further topics to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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Approved On: October 17, 2009

  
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Commissioner Joseph Goss

  
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Commissioner Henry Ela

  
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Commissioner Paul Jay