

West Ossipee Fire Commissioners Meeting  
West Ossipee Central Station  
Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Commissioners Present: Paul Jay and Henry Ela  
Others Present: Chief Brad Eldridge, Mellissa Ferland, and Treasurer Ray Boutin  
Minutes Taken By: Marilyn Bolduc

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Jay at 7:09pm

The October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Comm. Ela and passed 2-0.

Mail Folder - The final report from MRI on the Fire Department Feasibility Study is at the Selectmen's Office. There is only one hard copy available for the precinct and we can get a disc from the Town Hall.

A tentative tax rate has been set for the West Ossipee Precinct. It is not final until the Town tax rate is set and approved.

Manifest - The invoices were reviewed and a motion to approve payment of the manifest was made by Comm. Jay and seconded by Comm. Ela; passed 2-0.

Jewell Hill Construction - J. Cyr should be done on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The heating and electric need to be done. J. Picard should be in possibly next week.

When the overhead doors were installed, there was a crease in one of the sections of one of the doors. A new section has been ordered to replace it.

The duce and a half is already down there and the tower may be going down soon. Chief Eldridge said he needs to get the building cleaned out for M. McConkey. Any excess equipment not needed by the precinct will go to North Country Auctions for sale.

Chief Eldridge stated that Chris Seaman will taking his test for Level I Firefighter Course before Thanksgiving.

Chief Eldridge will be issuing a general order to all personnel regarding the use of cell

phones, PDAs, and cameras at fire and accident scenes. Any photos taken on department cell phones are the property of the precinct and not available for release to the public or newspapers without permission of the commission. Personal cell phones are not allowed to be used for a call except to take emergency family calls.

On November 12 and 13, Chief Eldridge will be out of the area. He will be attending a focus group discussion on commercial chassis on fire equipment. On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Chief Eldridge will be having day surgery on his hand and will be out until after Christmas. He will make arrangements with Dep. Chief Huddleston.

Chief Eldridge stated he has one concept drawing for a Jewell Hill Station sign and is waiting to receive a second one soon. He would like to get the departments input on which one they like.

Lisa Roche called and said all of the insurance claims have been okayed. We can either order the equipment and send the invoice to her or we can get the ACV money first and send her the invoices for any remaining money owed. A motion was made by Comm. Jay to get the actual cash value money first and then submit invoices for the remaining difference. The motion was seconded by Comm. Ela and passed 2-0.

Rivercraft has been sent a check for 50% of their invoice. The remainder will be sent to them once the boat has been inspected by Chief Eldridge and if weather permits, his testing of the boat in the water.

2010 Budget - Tentative information shows a 32 cent/\$1,000 of valuation increase to precinct tax rate. The public hearing for the West Ossipee Precinct budget will be December 6 at 6pm in the Town Hall. The Budget Committee will be reviewing all three precincts' budgets that night.

We need to review the figures we now have, identify the needs, and see where cuts can be made.

Additional budget information was discussed. Health insurance will be \$22,000. The septic system for Jewell Hill Station will be a separate warrant article, cost \$9000. The \$52,000 Jewell Hill building payment to be made in 2011 will have to be raised in 2010. The question, if the precinct can make both the January and July 2010 building payments in January and take the saved interest and roll it into a capital reserve account, needs to be researched.

A motion was made to adjourn the business meeting and go into a budget work session was made by Comm. Jay and seconded by Comm. Ela; passed 2-0.



Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

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At 7:50pm, Commissioners Jay and Ela started a Budget work session.

First item was to identify what needed to be included in separate warrant articles.

1. Warrant article for Central Station improvements: bathroom and electric - \$3500, heat - \$7300, and roof and ceiling repairs - \$1500 = \$12,500.
2. Warrant article for turnout gear would go under capital outlay
3. Warrant article for Jewell Hill Station bathrooms and septic - \$9000.
4. Warrant article for air pack and Hurst tool upgrade - \$115,000. Possible matching grant from Highway Safety of \$4500. This would be a 5 year lease. R. Boutin will get the commission figures showing the yearly payments.

Surveying for the Central Station boundary line adjustment will be \$5500.

R. Boutin will compute the figures for the 2010 NH Retirement contribution.

Chief Eldridge presented information on Fire Recovery USA. It is a business that processes billing for fire departments. The precinct sets the parameters for who and how people are billed. The precinct already bills for DWI accidents. The bill does not increase people's insurance premiums. It is processed as ambulance billing is done. The precinct can only bill nonresidents, if that is their choice. Fire Recovery gets a 60% to 70% return on billing. They do take a percentage of the recovery money as a fee. This is a possible way to recover money spent on calls and could be used to comply with unfunded mandates from the State and Federal governments. Chief Eldridge would like to make a presentation at the annual precinct meeting with the permission of the commission.

R. Boutin will get the NH Retirement figures and M. Ferland will get the information to separate the department's training time from the on call pay to get a clear picture of the amount of training the department does. They will have the information for the next budget work session on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made for Chief Eldridge to create a presentation for the annual precinct meeting regarding the feasibility of billing nonresidents for services rendered by the department, passed 2-0.


The next meeting will be a work session to finalize the budget on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 7:00pm at West Ossipee Central Station.

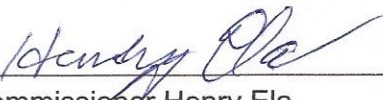
A motion to adjourn the work session was made and passed 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

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Approved On: November 23, 2009

  
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Commissioner Paul Jay

  
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Commissioner Henry Ela

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