

West Dover Fire Department  
OFFICERS MEETING  
Minutes  
December 14, 2015

Officers present: Rich Werner, Gary Carruthers, Mickey Kersten, John Snow & Mike Hescok  
Also present: Jeannette Eckert and Phil Tirrell from SWNH Mutual Aid

Meeting called to order at 5:08 PM by Gary Carruthers

**New Business:**

Meeting with Chief Phil from Southwestern New Hampshire Mutual Aid Dispatch

- Regarding the possibility of manning the firehouse over-night...same pagers can be used
- Will come up with an additional set of tones and make that situation work
- Dispatchers run from 17:30 to 05:30—shift changes at SWNH
- Just let them know which nights will be monitored
- Toned out to everyone after 5:30am
- Set criteria on type of alarms
- Some engine companies assist with lifting & loading
- May need some fine tuning as it goes along, particularly with the ambulance service

**Officers' comments:**

- Have two pagers kept at firehouse only—will purchase two new ones
- Well over a hundred false alarms a year –5 alone on Christmas day last year
- Will be trying the first overnight 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> –depending on weather situation
  - Also trying for a few weekends in January
- Still alarms—just have SWNH tone the guys at the station
- Will contact dispatch when back at station
- Rescue call assists—don't always get called unless requested by DVR
- Two guys on overnight shift need to stay in Town—DVR can't request a driver—need to make it clear at the get go
- Send an email to DVR with the details –be specific as to whether only a *driver* is needed
- Fire calls have priority
- If rescue has not arrived yet we can't leave and abandon the patient
- When fire gets on scene and it is just traffic control, let dispatch know
- It's a big step
- Have had positive response/interest from the firefighters

Radio repair—

- Repeater on Mt Snow? Still licensed on Mt Snow but National Forest made SWNH move it from lift tower there
  - It was moved to top of mountain and experienced interference so moved to Stratton
  - Would still like to be there but not sure how to avoid the interference
- Issues with 5 watt portables
- Meant for on-scene communications
- Mickey's pager will go off but then all he gets is static and it is getting worse
- Narrow banding could be the problem
- Ground elevation of trees over the last 20 years has changed

- Chimney Hill tower is not in a good location
- Look into a new location—possibly at Hermitage?? **Rich to call Bob Rubin about antenna site**
- Check on PL's
- Receive and send on different frequencies
- Stubbs tower has cleaned up a lot of the area

#### CO calls—SWNH

- Cannot make a determination from a phone call—cannot accept that liability of not sending somebody out
- It has been an issue for years
- There is a growing abuse of the EMS system in this country

#### Dispatching--

- Losing towns on dispatch
- Bylaws changed to *not* allow associate members any longer
- State Police dispatching for some towns up north at no charge
- Justice Center dispatch?
- Consequences of Yankee power plant closing
- Established capital reserve fund to address:
  - Replace radios, antennas, add on to towers, catastrophic situations
  - Buy outs—built up sick time, vacation time etc. when employee leaves

#### **Equipment:**

Updated vehicle capital plan as follows:

- 2008 Spartan Pumper/Tanker—good condition; 8987 miles; projected replacement 2028
- 1984 Mack—good condition; 18,795 miles; refurbished in 2004; projected replacement 2019
- 1993 Peterbilt Pumper/Tanker—good condition; 19,130 miles; refurbished in 2013; projected replacement 2023
- 1998 HME Ladder Truck—good condition; 5,300 miles; partial refurbish in 2011; projected replacement 2023
- 1997 International Utility Truck—good condition; 10,445 miles, partial refurbish in 2015; projected replacement 2022
- 20054 Ford Pick-up—good condition; 49,312 miles; partial refurbish in 2010; projected replacement 2020

Vehicles were brought over to Twin State

- Adjusted valves on tanker—seems to have more power; engine brake works better
- Some oil tests done
- Happy with service—got right in
- Utility truck—spent a lot of time on brakes, exhaust system
- This will be a yearly tradition

Gas meter—look into replacement—Glenn E. will research and possibly attend a January meeting

Truck inventory: Engine one

- Nozzle needs repair
- Ejector moved to a different compartment

- No water
- No gas can—need mixed gas for chain saw
- 50 to 1 ratio--\$27.00 a gallon from Napa
  - Get a couple of quarts—check into a case to keep on hand

Tanker:

- No 2.5" female to 1.5" gated Y
- Missing 1.75" nozzle
- 25 foot 2.5" hose
- Not all equipment is tagged & marked with the appropriate truck name
- Some of these items may be on other trucks

Cascade system—playing phone tag with Mickey; supposed to get a firm price and trade in value; Rich will contact

Buckets of sand—Mickey has a couple; looking for some sort of scoop to attach

5 New flashlights & 2 sets of irons are in—would like to see them put in the trucks

### **Officers' concerns:**

- Cell phones in the engines?
  - Any time used on personal cell phones should be compensated for
  - Listing of cell phone numbers of officers is in the trucks
  - Keene also has all the numbers
- Association will pay for pizza for overnight shifts
- Timber creek calls—no directions are posted for running fireplaces

### **Training and Drills**

January 6th—Bill Shea-- CO and thermal imaging

January 13<sup>th</sup>—Winter survival

January 20th—Re-enforce previous two drills—Mickey back up plan with related videos

- Officers reviewed/discussed recent house fire

### **Old Business:**

-Staffing of Firehouse- pick people

- John & Theresa Snow for Dec 26th with Rich as back up Officer
- Mike Hescoock and Rob Joslin for Dec 27th with Gary as back up Officer
- Gary Carruthers and Tim Dolan for Dec 31<sup>st</sup>
- Rich Werner and Chris Weinburg on Jan 1st
- John Snow and Ben Pike on Jan 2nd

-Mickey- proposal for the medical forms

- Researched several options and came up with one form
- Officers will review and report back at next meeting

### **Fire Calls for November**

- November 1: Grand Summit Way—assist DVR
- November 4: Wilmington-Mutual Aid-brush fire
- November 7: Blue Brook Road—car accident
- November 9: Stone Ridge Loop—false fire alarm  
Inn at Saw Mill—false fire alarm
- November 17: Dover Hill Rd—assist East Dover
- November 24: Route 100—alarm not sounding
- November 25: Route 100—false fire alarm  
Mountain Rd—false fire alarm
- November 28: Queen Anne Way—resident could not get hot water  
Dorr Fitch Rd—false fire alarm
- November 29: Stone Ridge Loop—false fire alarm

**Adjourned** at 7:15pm

Next Meeting- January 11, 2016

***Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!***

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Minutes are posted on the Dover, Vermont website: [www.doververmont.com](http://www.doververmont.com)