

West Dover Fire Department
OFFICERS MEETING
Minutes
Monday- July 11, 2016

Officers Present: Mickey Kersten, John Snow, Gary Carruthers, Rick Fletcher, Rich Werner
Also present: Recording secretary, Jeannette Eckert & Jack Carroll from Butterfield Common

Called to order at 5:00 PM

New Business:

Jack Carroll requested to meet with the officers regarding his concerns as a resident of Butterfield Common:

- Butterfield Common residents have concerns over fire escape egress
 - Need reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities
- What matters is “Are we going to perish in case of a fire?”
- 26 current residents
- Spoke with Deb Zak of Windham Windsor Housing Trust (owners of the building)
 - She indicated that there was an evacuation plan
- Purpose today is to organize a fire drill & evacuation drill—let them show us how to safely exit the building
- Just because it is “up to code” does not make it right. People perish in buildings all the time
- Was there ever any fire drill done during construction? Showing how to maneuver a vehicle in the back etc.?
- Fire escape on both gable ends would be an option—*owner of the building has to apply for any grants—the Town does not own the building*
- Stewart Management Company oversees the building maintenance
- Request is to reassure residents that they can rest in peace; believe a drill could accomplish this
- US Fair Housing Act—provides for reasonable accommodations
- Will continue to pursue it—perhaps legal aid can get involved and guide us
- Appreciate your time

Fire Officers Comments:

- Building was reviewed by labor and industry
- Some codes have changed and window sizes have changed but they were the proper size when inspected
- Was told by Brattleboro Housing Trust that it was “built on a shoestring” and did not have the money to address these concerns
- Former Fire Chief did not include other officials in the decisions when original permitting was done
- Egress in the back was a concern
- Fire Officers are now involved in these processes
- WWHT was approached about a generator—old school generator was offered at no cost—it works fine but it was turned down
- Understood that fire drills were supposed to be conducted—stairways are fire rated for two hours and residents should remain there if they cannot get down
- Rich has tried to get changes made—it has been a concern
- Windows are an egress—and they meet code

- If there was a fire at Butterfield, it would be treated as any other fire using the best resources that we have; cannot guarantee anyone's safety
- Need to get them to get a generator—then sprinkler system will work during a power outage—that is the most important thing to obtain for that building. But it is nothing the Fire Dept. or the Town can do to make that happen
- In the past, drills have been conducted at Butterfield Common for different scenarios; fire suppression system; are you proposing a drill that the residents can be part of? Can you gather all the residents together so there is 100% participation?
- Wheelchair bound residents on the second floor—can you convince them to move to a lower level? Was told that it cannot be asked of people
- It did meet Federal code when it was built
- We have over 2000 structures in this Town; WDFD has 22 drills a year—a lot needs to be accomplished during these drills; can't go to BC every year; dealt with the building during Irene; we have been involved in the building
- Stewart Management Company—these concerns should be discussed with them; I have no say over their decisions
- More than just a sprinkler system. A generator is key—residents depend on it for oxygen
- Will conduct a drill on September 21st— Jack to send Jeannette an email of what he is expecting from the drill; what would most benefit the residents; WDFD is here to work with you

Recessed at 6:00pm to go into MIQ session

Reconvened Officers meeting at 7:12pm

Equipment:

Gas meters—looking for something easy to operate; easy to calibrate

- Decide how many gases you want
- Determine who makes them; rep to bring one out or ship to us
- MSA—Mickey will check on these
- John will look into disposable ones—single gases; good for a certain amount of time
- Gary will check into other models that are out there
- Ribco representative will bring a Draeger model to consider

Training/Drills:

Driver training on July 20th— Gary and Rick in charge

- Set up course and get water, pump water

August 17th—Rich & John in charge

Bill Shea will not come this month

Task Force One—Engine company operations with light staffing—two-day hands on course

- 3 free slots each day; will pay for any additional people who want to attend
- Date is October 15-16; Need 20 people to participate; they will pay for all advertising

July 30th—EDFD Auction at Town Hall and Blueberry Parade

June Fire Calls:

June 2- Country Club Road- assist fallen person

June 8- Route 100- car accident- no injuries

Stugger Road- false fire alarm

June 9- Edwards Village Loop- assist fallen person

June 18- Route 100- overheated motor on fan

June 25- Searsburg- cancelled en route- was supposed to set up a landing zone

June 30- Country Club Road- assist fallen person

Adjourned at 7:32pm

Next Meeting- August 8 at 5pm—meetings changed to 2nd Monday of the month rather than 4th

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Minutes are posted on the Dover, Vermont website: www.doververmont.com