

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 19th, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan, Fire Engineer Jim Fabrizio, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Department-Pick Up Truck Purchase:

P. Moynihan updated the Board of Selectmen on the information he had gathered since the last meeting on Monday.

Portsmouth Ford has a ½ ton pick for \$61,000. Ford.com has a ½ ton for \$52,650 and a ¾ ton for \$47,700. McFarland Ford has a ½ ton for \$59,000. Some dealers give municipal discounts and some don't. P. Moynihan said that a newer vehicle could save the department \$1,000 in fuel per year.

The Board asked where in the budget the money could come from. P. Moynihan said that there is \$12,000 in the Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve fund and there is \$10,000 in their equipment purchases budget line that could be used. The remaining amount would be taken from other areas in the general budget.

B. Arsenault asked if there were any other areas in the Fire budget that could be used for the purchase, maybe overtime. P. Moynihan said that the department is currently having staffing issues which leads to using overtime to cover shifts.

How much could the current command car be sold for? The Kelly Blue Book has a price between \$7,200-\$7,900. T. Connors thought that \$5,000 was a more realistic number. J. Fabrizio said that the command car can't pass inspection now. T. Connors said that the current sticker is good until the end of September.

B. Arsenault thought that the towing capability of the new truck to tow heavy things is redundant because the department already has a 1-ton truck that can haul heavy items.

The primary tow vehicle in the Fire Department is the 2011 1-ton truck.

The MRI report that was done last year on the Fire Department stated that the 2011 truck be replaced in 2023.

B. Arsenault thought that the best course of action would be to repair the Command Car for \$3,500, just the mechanical issues, not the body work issues. This will give the Board more time to see how the budget year is going and it will be easier in September to know where the budget stands. E. Hoyt asked if he needed to find the money in his budget. B. Arsenault said yes. E. Hoyt said that when the Selectmen asked the Fire Department to remove their warrant article for a new command car, they said that if it dies during the year, they would find the money. T. Connors acknowledged that the Board said that, but the financial situation has dramatically changed since 2021. B. Arsenault said that if the Fire Department could find the money in their budget it would be fantastic. B. Arsenault agrees that the Fire Department definitely needs a vehicle, but we need more time to make the decision on what vehicle. P. Moynihan asked if the \$3,500 for repairs could come out of the Capital Reserve fund. The Board said yes.

B. Arsenault moved to mechanically repair the Suburban command car and that the money will be taken out of the Fire Department Vehicle Major Repair Capital Reserve Fund. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

B. Arsenault said that this will give everyone time to make a good decision. He encouraged the Fire Department to bring a plan to the Selectmen at the end of July or early August. P. Moynihan said that it takes 16 weeks to get the equipment for the truck. Discussion ensued about what to do with the old fire truck after the Town gets the new one. It could be donated to a Town up north.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 5:54pm. B. Bloingen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder