

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 25, 2016 Town Hall

J. Stuart called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Selectman Jan Stuart, Selectman Mike Marconi, Fire Engineers: Darin Sabine, Ruth Fletcher and Jim Fabrizio, Fire Chief Andy Head, Greenland Selectmen, John Morgan and Paul Sanderson, Greenland Town Administrator, Karen Anderson, Greenland Fire Chief, Ralph Cresta and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

Paul Sanderson explained that the Greenland Fire Department is in transition. The department is currently volunteer. They have 12 hour shifts, 7 days per week. The mutual aid agreements with surrounding towns are working well. Greenland also has a Hazmat team.

Chief Head explained that Newington has 2 engines, a ladder truck, ambulance, boat and a forestry truck. Newington has been utilizing part time people since 2010. Employees are leaving to go to full time jobs. Newington completes roughly 800 calls per year plus many inspections.

Paul Sanderson explained that Greenland has fewer fire calls and more ambulance calls.

A suggestion was made to have departments train together.

J. Stuart asked how many calls were for the ambulance. Andy Head said 12% of the calls are residential.

M. Marconi stated there appears to be a duplication of trucks between Newington and Greenland. Chief Cresta reviewed the trucks Greenland Fire has. He stated that they have a tank truck but not a ladder truck. They use Newington's or Portsmouth's ladder trucks if necessary..

K. Anderson asked about sharing part time help with Newington. She stated this could slow down employees leaving and going being hired by other departments.

Chief Head explained that the hiring procedures are very strict. Chief Cresta stated that he agreed with Newington's standards for training.

J. Morgan thought that training together could help improve skills. D. Sabine explained that Newington went to on-shift training. Two times a year they bring all staff in to train, as well.

Currently Newington pays \$14.70 an hour. A new, higher scaled was recently adopted to help with retention.

Ralph Cresta explained that Greenland pays approximately the same rate.

C. Iocovozzi asked about amount we receive in revenue from the ambulance. Chief Head responded \$94,000/year.

R. Cresta stated that Greenland receives \$75,000/year.

Chief Head explained that residential calls in Greenland are more acute.

C. Iocovozzi asked if the ambulance and ambulance personnel could be hired out? He explained that the cost of wages and benefits for full time staff may not be most cost effective alternative.

C. Iocovozzi stated that in Fairfax, Virginia the County runs the department. Smaller towns could put this together without the city if necessary.

K. Anderson suggested a Seacoast Fire Department. C. Iocovozzi stated that the biggest problem is manpower.

Chief Head explained that the National Fire Protection Association requires a certain number of fire fighters. Another challenge discussed was that the firefighters do not live in town. D. Sabine stated that the departments need 4 people around the clock.

P. Sanderson asked the group about having 1 chief for 2 towns. Chief Head did not believe he could take on any further work. M. Marconi stated that there could be 2 Assistant Chiefs.

K. Anderson thought there needs to be a hiring process and pay scale in the region to insure employees aren't moving from one town to another.

Ralph Cresta suggested that we start a list like the Fire Academy to share.

D. Sabin thought it would be difficult to staff with part time employees.

J. Stuart moved to enter into nonpublic session at 8:10pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a, c and e). C. Iocovozzi seconded the motion and all were in favor on a roll call vote.

The Board returned from the nonpublic session at 8:18pm.

M. Marconi moved to seal the non-public minutes indefinitely. J. Stuart seconded the motion with all in favor on a roll call vote.

Adjournment: J. Stuart moved to adjourn at 8:20pm. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy
Town Administrator