

## Emergency Management Study Group

### Minutes for the August 13 meeting

#### Members in attendance:

Bonnie Chase  
Carol Reller  
Priscilla Sawa  
Matt Saxton  
Bobbie Wilson

#### Also present:

Kim Kercewich  
George Moore

#### Topics discussed:

- **Police Chief Hiring status** — one application has been received, but apparently no other progress.
- **Village Station door repairs** — Carol and Bruce Bellows visited the Village Station. Raising the height of the doors seems feasible, but Carol will get the advice of a structural engineer from Bensonwood.
- **Research on new equipment** — Carol talked with the assistant chief from Lempster about their purchase of a combo rescue-pumper. (It weighs 48K pounds compared to the 36K pounds of our current pumper.) They received a 108K grant from FEMA.
- **Contracting with Keene** — an alternative to having our own fire department is to contract with another town. The closest full-time department is Keene. (Bellows Falls is full-time and part of our mutual aid, but they always send their call-in personnel, not their full-timers.) Contracting with Keene would increase the response time without necessarily decreasing costs. There might also be an impact on the cost of residential insurance.
- **Purchasing new equipment** —
  - One alternative is to buy a pumper in 2016 (~\$400K) and a rescue truck in 2018 (~\$210K).
  - The other alternative is a combo pumper-rescue (~\$395K).
- **Prioritizing our tasks** —
  - Fix the door of the Village Station.
  - Get bids on various replacement engines.
  - Find other funding sources such as grants, fundraisers, bonds. Fundraisers raise the visibility of the department, but will not bring in the amount of money we need for new equipment. A grant-writing seminar will happen on September 17 in Keene.

- Research buying used/refurbished trucks.
- Consider combining the Fire Department and Ambulance Squad.
- Consider hiring an administrator to do the paperwork.
- Set up baseline physicals for personnel, maybe done by an RN.
- Set up the process for a rehab station at the work site.
- Fix the delays in applications for new recruits and in the return of equipment.
- We decided to focus on the first three tasks.

#### **Motions:**

- The meeting minutes of July 23 were approved.

#### **Action items:**

- Carol will meet with the structural engineer at the Village Station to get ideas on how to redesign the door.
- Kim will create baseline specs for the three types of trucks and get ball-park prices from Valley Fire.
- George and Carol will attend the grant-writing class at the Keene Firehouse on September 17 at 6:00 pm.

#### **Next meetings:**

August 27 and September 10 at 7:00 pm at Vilas Pool.

#### **Agenda items for next meeting:**

- Discuss options for the Village Station door.
- Discuss our strategy for getting consensus in the town on replacing the old equipment.
- Discuss the baseline specs and the quotes from Valley Fire.