

Emergency Management Study Group Minutes for the June 11, 2015 Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Bonnie Chase
Carol Reller
Ed Reller
Matt Saxton
Bobbie Wilson

Also present:

Chris Reitmann

Topics Discussed:

- The minutes from the June 4 meeting were approved.
- Marcello was able to obtain the statistics (Calls for Service) from the State Police for their coverage of the town for 2013 and 2014. These were reviewed.
- Chris reported that the ad for the Police Chief would run in the Union Leader, the Keene Sentinel, and on two online websites specific to police jobs. He also stated that the Board of Selectmen would review the number of resumes received at their meeting in June 23. If the number is not satisfactory, they will then come up with a “plan B”.
- We went on to discuss emergency management and the director’s position.
 - We concurred that the town had a need to be able to obtain FEMA funds if another disaster occurs. Therefore, we will support having an EM plan and director.
 - We discussed what we thought the role of the EM should be and determined that person needed to be the key point of contact in an emergency. The Fire Chief does currently take incident command but following what the Field Rep from the NH Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Management said last week, we want that to be the key responsibility of the Fire Chief - i.e. focusing on the incident.
 - It was decided that it made more sense to let the Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen take over the position as EM director from the key point of contact perspective. The Selectmen/Chair would need to complete the state mandated training classes (3, online). We also need to notify the state when a change in personnel is made for the EM Director’s position. A group could then be recruited to handle the following:
 - Update emergency plans as needed
 - Generate a list of volunteers and provide training as needed so that they might help handle emergencies
 - Grant writing

- Community liaison, preparation, and outreach
 - Gathering of important information about the town citizens such as those with special needs, those with special skills etc.
- Carol will draft recommendations and a charter for review at the next meeting and eventual submittal to the Select Board.
- We then discussed if we would move on to the Fire Department or Ambulance Squad as our next topic.
 - It was noted that the Fire Chief stated there have been a few new volunteers to the FD in the last few months. He thinks the “Alstead Fire and Rescue” page on Facebook, run by George Moore and Matt Goodell, has been helpful in getting the word out to people that we need volunteers.
 - Carol stated that the FD has requested we attend a monthly meeting. Bobbie suggested that it might be possible to have a joint monthly meeting with the FD and Ambulance Squad. She also stated that nothing has been done to “combine” these organizations since the Select Board stated that they were “one”.

Action Items:

- Carol will take a stab at a draft of recommendations regarding emergency management.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, June 18, at VILAS POOL – please note the change of venue!

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Discuss the draft recommendations regarding emergency management.
- Decide on our next topic and if/when we would like to meet with the Fire Department and Ambulance Squad at a monthly meeting.

Comments from the public:

- None.