

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
April 29, 2014  
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: Gail Cromwell, John Kieley, George Willard

Also present: George Clark, Fire Chief; Mark Salisbury, Will Wildes, Fire Engineers

Call to order by Cromwell at 7:00 p.m.

Special Meeting regarding EMT coverage of the Town: Cromwell thanked the Fire Engineers and Chief for meeting with the Board. The Board confirmed that Ron O'Keefe of Property-Liability Trust (PLT) would be coming to a meeting on May 14, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Cromwell stated that the Board is not interested in "micro-managing" the Fire Department, but is concerned with "functionality" and the level of service provided to residents. Cromwell reviewed what issues the Board feels the Fire Engineers are responsible to the Board for 1) the budget voted on by town meeting; 2) maintenance of town owned equipment; 3) functionality – providing services and functioning appropriately. Cromwell continued by saying that the Board has a duty to the public to insist there is a certain level of service and appropriate response times. Cromwell also said that the Fire Department cannot change the intent of a purpose that has been identified in the past, such as the rescue squad going directly to a scene.

Kieley asked for confirmation on the change to the SOG regarding EMT response to a scene. The Board felt that this SOG had been changed to allow direct response at the previous meeting. Clark said that he will not change the SOG until "X,Y and Z" is in place. Kieley asked for an explanation. Clark informed the Board that the following needs to be done: 1) obtain drivers records, Clark asked if the FD is responsible of getting the records or should the EMTs be responsible. The cost is \$15.00/record. Move by Kieley to authorize the expenditure of up to \$60.00 for obtaining drivers records for EMTs, second by Cromwell and voted in the affirmative. 2) Clark needs to obtain proof of insurance for each person who will be responding directly to a scene. 3) Clark needs to inspect the vehicles that will be used for lights and sirens. Clark informed the Board that he has a letter ready to give the EMTs authorizing response and use of lights and sirens once the inspection has been completed.

The Administrative Assistant suggested that these 3 things be done for all drivers at some point. The FD and Board will bring this up with O'Keefe at the 5/14/14 meeting.

Cromwell said she would like to clear up a statement made by Mike Connolly at the 3/31/14 meeting. Connolly had stated that the rescue truck was required to respond to a call. Cromwell has spoken to Bill Wood at the State of NH Bureau of EMS. According to Wood there is no state requirement for response of the rescue truck to any calls. Cromwell also said that Wood had informed her about grants to obtain Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). Kieley asked if the town has the correct number of AEDs available. Peterson stated Temple has the highest number of AEDs per capita in the State of NH. After some discussion the need for three more AEDs was identified – the town hall, municipal building and the rescue truck. The town hall currently does not have an AED on site. The AEDs in the municipal building and rescue truck are past their useful life dates. The Board will try to determine how to pay for two of the AEDs and the FD will pay for one out of its budget. Clark is qualified to train in the use of the AEDs.

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Cromwell said there seemed to be a perception that because the town owns certain equipment it needs to be used. Cromwell did not think that this was necessarily true and that some vehicles did not need to respond to certain calls. Cromwell asked the FD if they had any question about their accountability to the BOS. Clark asked if the FD could make its own rules. Cromwell said the BOS reserves the right to determine if a rule is in the best interest of the town.

Kieley said that he has an issue with compliance with the "right-to-know" law (RTK). Kieley informed the Fire Engineers that they need to post their meeting, make sure those meetings are open to the public and take minutes. The Board was informed that the Fire Engineers had requested the A.A. type up and post a meeting notice similar to the notice posted for the Police Board and this has been done. Kieley then stated that the BOS is responsible for public safety like the FD. At the current time the Board doesn't know of any of other by-laws that deal with RTK or response times.

Kieley reviewed the three items to do for a change to the SOG in question regarding response of the EMTs. Rich Beringer expressed concern about obtaining drivers records on just the EMTs. It was explained to Beringer that this issue had already been brought up and will be discussed at a later date. The object at this time is to work on EMT response.

Move by Cromwell to enter non-public session at 7:31 pm under RSA 91-A:3II(c) Reputation, second by Kieley and voted Cromwell, Kieley and Willard in the affirmative. Out of non-public session at 8:35 pm. Move by Kieley to seal the minutes of the non-public session, second by Cromwell and voted Cromwell, Kieley and Willard in the affirmative.

Move by Kieley to adjourn, second by Cromwell, and so voted at 8:36 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Debra Harling

*~ Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 5:30 pm ~*