

West Ossipee Fire Precinct
Jewell Hill Fire Station, West Ossipee, NH
2013 Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 23, 2013

Commissioners Present: Paula Moore, Greg Howard, Stanley Brothers
Moderator: Thomas Kondrat
Minutes Taken By: DorisAnn Allenson, Precinct Clerk
Xann Teryek, Precinct Secretary

Moderator Kondrat called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Article I: *To elect all necessary precinct officers for the ensuing year as follows: to choose one Commissioner for a term of three (3) years; one Commissioner for a term of one (2) years; one Clerk for a term of one (1) year; one Treasurer for a term of one (1) year; and one Moderator for a term of one (1) year.*

Motion was made and seconded.

Moderator Kondrat suggested revisiting this article at the end of the meeting; there were no objections.

Commissioner for a term of three (3) years

Stanley Brothers was nominated and seconded as commissioner for a three (3) year term; Brothers accepted the nomination. **By voice vote, motion passed.**

Commissioner for a term of two (2) years

Paula Moore was nominated and seconded as commission for a two (2) year term; Moore accepted the nomination. **By voice vote; motion passed.**

Clerk for a term of one (1) year

DorisAnn Allenson was nominated and seconded as clerk for a one (1) year term; Allenson accepted the nomination. **By voice vote, motion passed.**

Treasurer for a term of one (1) year

Eileen Roberts was nominated and seconded as treasurer for a one (1) year term; Roberts accepted the nomination. **By voice vote, motion passed.**

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Moderator for a term of one (1) year

Thomas Kondrat was nominated and seconded as moderator for a one (1) year term; Kondrat accepted the nomination. **By voice vote, motion passed.**

Article II: *To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Ten Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Three (\$410,713.00) for general precinct operations. (Majority vote required)*

<i>Executive</i>	<i>\$ 15,100.00</i>
<i>Financial Administration</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>
<i>Legal</i>	<i>\$ 2,000.00</i>
<i>Government Buildings</i>	<i>\$ 59,820.00</i>
<i>Insurance</i>	<i>\$ 16,600.00</i>
<i>Fire</i>	<i>\$200,410.00</i>
<i>Street Lighting</i>	<i>\$ 600.00</i>
<i>Capital Outlay</i>	<i>\$ 35,000.00</i>
<i>Principal-Long Term Bond</i>	<i>\$ 32,000.00</i>
<i>Interest-Long Term Bond</i>	<i>\$ 9,183.00</i>
<i>Equipment Lease</i>	<i>\$ 34,000.00</i>

Motion to accept as stated, seconded.

Each line item was then discussed individually.

Executive \$15,100 - No discussion.

Financial Administration - \$6,000 – No discussion.

Legal - \$2,000 – Bob Pustell asked if there are any ongoing legal issues. Have things been resolved or is this a contingency fund. Howard reported there is no pending or expected legal action; this \$2,000 is in case we need to contact an attorney for guidance. Moore noted Susan Slack has been very helpful and she has been providing answers to minor questions with no charged to the Precinct.

Government Buildings - \$59,820 – No discussion.

Insurance - \$16,600 – No discussion.

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Fire - \$200,410.00 – No discussion.

Street Lighting - \$600 – Joe Goss stated that Center Ossipee has proposed turning street lights over to the town by a warrant article. If they are going to do this, maybe West Ossipee should think of doing this.

Capital Outlay - \$35,000 – Chief Huddleston reported that included in this \$35,000 is the exhaust capture system for two pieces of apparatus at Central Station. The building is now closed up, weather tight, and well insulated. Therefore, a system was needed to capture the diesel fumes and smoke. This is a system that fits on the apparatus itself. The gas is diverted through a filter system and out of the building. He stated we have also continued to work on replacing the protective clothing, performing vehicle repairs (a minimal amount in the light of what has been fixed in the past), and radios and pagers have been replaced and programmed to keep up with technology and regulations. Bob Pustell asked if the exhaust recovery system will be able to transfer from vehicle to vehicle or will this be a re-occurring expense. Chief Huddleston stated the system can be moved from one vehicle to another. Bob Pustell said it sounds like a good idea.

Principal Long Term Bond - \$32,000 - No discussion.

Interest Long Term Bond - \$9,183.00 – No discussion.

Equipment Lease - \$34,000 – No discussion.

Moderator Kondrat noted the total amount is \$410,713. In 2010 we spent \$550,000. Clearly this Board has done a lot of work to get this budget under control. The website is up and running at www.westossipeefire.org. Meeting minutes, audit reports, etc. are posted on the web site. He thinks the fire department is in really good shape. Commissioner Brothers stated he is new to the Board of Commissioners but most of the work you see today was done by Commissioner Howard, Commissioner Moore, and Commissioner Paul Jay; they deserve a round of applause.

Motion was made and seconded to accept Article II as written. By voice vote, motion passed.

Article III: *To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) for the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing vehicles and other fire fighting and rescue equipment. (Majority vote required)*

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Motion was made and seconded to accept Article III as written.

Bob Pustell asked why this fund is necessary. Commissioner Howard stated the fund was started so when we have the issue of replacing or repairing a large piece of equipment, the Precinct would not have to take out a note or long term lease; we would have available funds to cover the costs. There is currently \$20,000 in this Capital Reserve Fund from last year.

By voice vote, motion passed.

(Meeting was taken back to Article I.)

Article IV: *To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.*

Motion was made and seconded. By hand vote, motion passed.

Commissioner Brothers asked Chief Huddleston to review his report. Huddleston reported of 229 calls, 144 were medical related. The fire service has evolved in the last 10 years. There used to be a rescue squad and an ambulance service. The rescue squad dwindled in number over the years and the town gave that responsibility back to the fire dept. We still have a contracted ambulance service which is due for renewal in 2014. One thing that was not in the topic of consolidation was the ambulance service. The fire departments in town are coming up with a plan that if all of this gets put back onto the town, we will have a plan put together to contend with ambulance service. We had 42 fires this past year. This included assisting other depts. There was one major structure fire and a number of chimney fires. Last year there were 207 calls; this year there were 229 calls. We have still been able to maintain payroll at the same rate as the previous year. We have done a number of upgrades to equipment to make it safe and compliant with safety inspection rules. Personal protective equipment is back to where it needs to be. Chief Huddleston thanked the firefighters and the Commissioners for their support and hard work over the last year. We have come a long way in the last two years with equipment, facilities, and general morale. If anybody has any questions, his number is clearly stated or they can stop in and see him.

Moderator Kondrat asked how West Ossipee structure fires and emergency rescues related to the other districts? Chief Huddleston stated Center Ossipee had 394 calls, Ossipee Corner had 408 of which approximately 15% are to the nursing home. We are

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typically lower than the other two precincts. Our primary area of protection is smaller; we have facilities in town that make for a different response. Moderator Kondrat noted with the ratio of major structure fires to major medical calls, he thinks in the future the whole role of the fire department will be emergency medical services more than fire. Chief Huddleston agreed and noted that is why we now have many more firefighters with medical certifications. Commissioner Howard asked how many firefighters are medically certified today compared with 2 years ago. Chief Huddleston stated there were 4 or 5 two years ago, now there are 9.

Moderator Kondrat asked if we have a volunteer department, why is the payroll what it is? Chief Huddleston explained in the payroll figure is also training and certification. As far as traditional volunteer departments, there are only three left in the state of New Hampshire. Cornish, Effingham, and Pittsburgh. West Ossipee Fire Department is a paid fire department. This was put in place a number of years ago because in order to respond to a medical emergency, you need to have licensed personnel. Training to be able to go on calls alone is 110 hours. Training for EMT Basic is 120 hours of classroom time and then there is clinical time, practical exam and a written exam. Add to this Firefighter Level 1 class and it takes about a 1 ½ years and \$10,000 to train someone to bring them to the minimum level. Then there is gear, equipments, etc. for a total of approximately \$15,000 for one person. The "Fire" line item of \$200,410 includes \$117,000 which is for payroll, inclusive of chief's pay, call people, training, and payroll expenses. This is much less than 2011, but the same as it was for 2012. An entry level firefighter with no certifications gets paid \$12.50 hour. The West Ossipee Fire Chief gets paid the same as what the chiefs in the other town departments get paid. Firefighters do not get paid unless we get called, and we still volunteer some of our time. We get a minimum of two hours pay for a call which is the industry standard.

Matt Welch noted there is also the continuing education piece. Chief Huddleston stated in order to maintain a license, need 24 hours a year of continuing education, classroom time and practical exam time is required for EMS.

Nick Anania asked if the pay scales are similar across the other precincts, are they working to make this one unit. Chief Huddleston stated the three fire chiefs will come up with a plan so that when the time does come there will be a base line plan. The other chiefs think that probably within 10 years, the topic of combining departments will come up again. Chief Huddleston stated he can see it being a possibility for discussion within the next 10 to 12 years. With the way it is right now, no, they are not discussion joining the departments; it would cost too much. The budget for one full time department would

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be double what the three precincts' budgets are currently. He does not foresee us going away from current system for 10 + years down the road.

Moderator Kondrat stated the idea of a full time medical service might make sense. Chief Huddleston noted that the contract with Life Star is up in 2014. When the contract was proposed, the then three chiefs wrote the proposed bid contract. The selectmen changed this. The three chiefs will write this again for 2014. If nothing changes it will probably require more money to keep the service as it is. He believes the idea of a combined medical service will come up before the idea of a combined fire department.

Bob Pustell stated the firefighters and commissioners have done wonderfully when comparing a few years ago to now. He is very grateful to all and he is impressed, happy, and thankful. Moderator Kondrat noted in the past people did not show up; when they did, this is what made the change. Commissioner Howard noted without the dedication of the firefighter they would not have accomplished what they have. The dedication and pride shows in the number of certifications and the number of young firefighters studying Fire Science in Laconia (3 presently). The guys are very positive about doing their job for the residents of West Ossipee.

Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Moderator Kondrat adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.


DorisAnn Allenson, Precinct Clerk


Date