

West Ossipee Fire Precinct  
Jewell Hill Fire Station, West Ossipee, NH  
2014 Annual Meeting  
Saturday, March 15, 2014

**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 10:06 a.m. and explained meeting procedures.

**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 Clerk for a term of one (1) year; one Treasurer for a term of one (1) year; and a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.*

Moderator Kondrat suggested moving Article I to the end of the meeting. There were no objections.

**Motion was made and seconded to move this to last. Motion passed.**

**Article II:** *To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred and Two Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty (\$402,520.00) dollars for general precinct operations. (Majority vote required)*

<i>Executive</i>	<i>\$14,400.00</i>
<i>Financial Administration</i>	<i>\$6,000.00</i>
<i>Legal</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
<i>Government Buildings</i>	<i>\$47,470.00</i>
<i>Insurance</i>	<i>\$19,100.00</i>
<i>Fire</i>	<i>\$204,950.00</i>
<i>Street Lighting</i>	<i>\$600.00</i>
<i>Capital Outlay</i>	<i>\$30,000.00</i>
<i>Principal- Long Term Bond</i>	<i>\$28,000.00</i>
<i>Interest- Long Term Bond</i>	<i>\$16,000.00</i>
<i>Equipment Lease</i>	<i>\$35,000.00</i>

Each item was discussed individually.

Executive: No discussion.  
Financial Administration: No discussion.  
Legal: No discussion.  
Government Buildings: No discussion.  
Insurance: An audience member asked why there is an increase in this line item? Howard explained that the precinct was previously self-insured for workers compensation and now it is not; we now have this additional expense of \$2,000+. Also the Local Government Center changed over to The Property Liability Trust which affected a change in some of the components as well.  
Fire: No discussion.

Street Lighting: No discussion.  
Capital Outlay: Someone asked what this is for. Chief Huddleston explained last year the precinct installed an exhaust capturing system at Central Station. This was a \$20,000 expense. We are trying to do two trucks at Jewell Hill this year and some more lockers at Central Station for gear and some cabinets to secure equipment.

Principal – Long Term Bond: No Discussion  
Interest – Long Term Bond: No Discussion  
Equipment Lease: No Discussion.

**Motion was made to accept article as stated and seconded. Motion passed.**

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

**Motion was made and seconded to accept article as written. Motion passed.**

**Article IV:** *Shall the West Ossipee Fire Precinct accept the provisions of RSA 31:95b providing that any fire precinct at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the commissioners to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the fire precinct meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year? (Majority vote required).*

**Motion was made and seconded.**

Commissioner Howard explained that if certain funds become available to the precinct, before we can accept them we would have to hold a special meeting before the residents to accept those funds (i.e. grant funds). In order to get around this need, the DRA has implemented the above RSA and recommend that entities implement it so if funds become available, the precinct does not have to go through the special meeting process. If we pass this, it is applied until rescinded.

**Motion passed.**

**Moderator Kondrat referred back to Article I.**

**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 Clerk for a term of one (1) year; one Treasurer for a term of one (1) year; and a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.*

One Commssioner for a term of three (3) years

Nomination of Greg Howard; no other nominations. Nomination passed; Howard accepted.

One Clerk for a term of one (1) year

Nomination of DorisAnn Allenson; no other nominations. Nomination passed; Allenson accepted.

One Treasurer for a term of one (1) year

Nomination of Eileen Roberts; no other nominations. Nomination passed; Roberts accepted.

Moderator for a term of one (1) year

Nomination of Tom Kondrat; no other nominations. Nomination passed; Kondrat accepted.

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

**Motion was made and seconded.**

It was noted that at town meeting there is an article for over \$500,000 for ambulance service. There is ongoing discussion between the three precincts and other towns regarding this issue. Chief Huddleston explained that the three fire chiefs, along with the selectmen, have been working on this for quite a while. For the past 7 or 8 years the town has been paying around \$200,000 for a contracted ambulance provider. The provider we had prior to the one we have at the moment started having some issues. The previous Board of Selectmen allowed them to change some things in the contract, allowing them to use older vehicles and cut back on their services. The fire chiefs noted a number of problems and reported them to the state and to Huggins Hospital and the provider lost the ability to transport emergency patients. North Conway Ambulance, owned by Care Plus, covers Madison, Tamworth, Freedom and Eaton. They agreed to provide coverage to the Town of Ossipee for the equivalent of \$265,000 per year. We put out a request for proposals for ambulance coverage for the town of Ossipee. The RFP was based on two ambulances staffed 24/7 which has been the norm for 20+ years. This is the level of service we are accustomed to. Based on the number of calls and transports to hospitals, this is what we actually need. The only two bids were from Care Plus and American Ambulances. The Care Plus quote originally was \$602,000 for the first year and it went up every year after that. The American Ambulance bid started at just over \$700,000. The selectmen reviewed these and then the bids were revised. People have been comparing these quotes with Wolfeboro and other towns. Huddleston explained why these towns may have different figures than what we are receiving as estimates. He also explained how the billing works either through insurance or directly to the person. A normal billing is \$1,200. Medicare/Medicaid will only pay approximately \$360. A private insurance company may pay between \$300 to \$800. Between August 1 and February 28<sup>th</sup>, we transported 246 patients out of the Town of Ossipee to hospitals. Out of that, the ambulance service recouped just over \$98,000 which comes to approximately \$300 per trip.



They take their total cost, what they are going to recoup for billing, and what is left over is what we will be paying. The information in the paper was a little misleading. When comparing with other towns, we need to be very careful. At town meeting we will be voting on money for one year. We are trying to come up with a regional approach to this so that we can all benefit from a group purchase to try to drive cost down. Freedom's ambulance cost for the year is \$27,000 because they signed a contract two years ago to get a lower rate. The tri-towns have been put on notice that their rates will increase with the next cycle. The low prices that our neighbors have will go away. We are hoping that as a group we can agree on what we need for coverages and what the prices will be for each individual town. If this passes it will give us a year to get some more information out there and come back next year with a reduced cost for ambulance service. Brothers asked if they were in negotiations with Effingham. Huddleston stated when our previous provided lost their ability to transport patients; Care Plus had been providing care for Effingham. Effingham came on board with us. In the mean time, the selectmen and fire chiefs have been working together to come up with a way for Effingham to join our contract to offset costs. Of the \$560,000 they were going to pay \$130,000 of it. However, since then, our previous provided was able to get another agreement with another hospital and are back in business. There were two bids, Care Plus and the previous provided with a difference of \$4,000. Effingham opted to go with the previous provider. The Town of Ossipee will not use that previous provided. They were terminated for a reason. Although the warrant article states \$562,000 that is for a two year cycle; this year will be \$390,000. Selectmen Bob Freeman stated the town taxes with this contract are only going up \$46,000. we have cut budgets and taken money out of surplus. Huddleston feels the regional approach is probably going to best for us. Commissioner Howard and Steve Moore stated their concerns with other towns not having to buy into because we have mutual aid. The cost of service will be discussed and the selectmen will have to bring other towns up to speed of what it will cost for us to provide ambulance service. Discussion ensued on ambulance service. Steve Moore said all our firefighters do a great job and the commissioners and staff are doing a great job. He lives in a district where we keep getting the short end of the stick. We don't get the sweetheart deal like we extended to Effingham. Our budget is down from three years ago and a lot of work is getting done. West Ossipee cost is going up. We need to get our thinking caps on in West Ossipee and figure out if we can reduce some of our costs. Howard stated the discussion that is going to take place about a regional ambulance service will stimulate discussions on eventually being one fire precinct and one fire department many years down the road.

### **Vote to Adjourn**

Motion made and seconded. Motion passed.

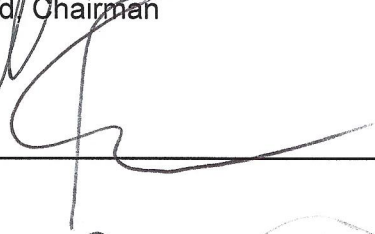
The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Commissioners of the West Ossipee Fire Precinct



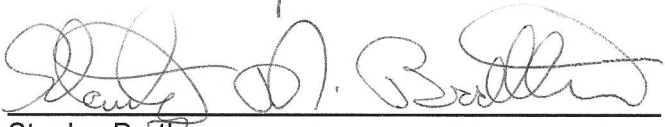
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Gregory Howard, Chairman



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Paula Moore



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Stanley Brothers