

West Ossipee Fire Precinct
Jewell Hill Fire Station, West Ossipee, NH
2021 Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 6, 2021

Commissioners Present: Gregory W. Howard, Paula Moore, Denise Castle
Moderator: Bob Pustell
Minutes Taken By: DorisAnn Allenson, Precinct Clerk
Xann Horn, Precinct Secretary

17 registered voters were in attendance. Moderator Bob Pustell called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, then explained the meeting procedures. A moment of silence was then held for anyone lost within the precinct and across the country, especially given the pandemic. Moderator Pustell introduced the commissioners, secretary, treasurer, clerk and budget committee representative. He also stated that Louise Sutherland, Budget Committee Representative has resigned, and the Precinct is looking to fill that position. Town Elections are coming up on Tuesday (at Town Hall) and Town Meeting on Wednesday (at Ossipee Central School to allow for social distancing guidelines).

Article I

Motion: by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to move Article I to follow article III. **All in favor, motion carried.**

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.

To elect all necessary precinct officers for the ensuing year as follows:

- One Commissioner for a term of three (3) years.
Gregory W. Howard is willing to serve a three-year term.
- One Clerk for a term of one (1) year.
DorisAnn.Allenson is willing to serve for a one-year term.
- One Treasurer for a term of one (1) year.
Barbara Fraser-Hooper (Terri) is willing to serve for a one-year term.
- One Moderator for a term of one (1) year. Bob Pustell is willing to serve for a one-year term.

No other nominations were made.

Motion: by Moore, seconded by Nick Anania, to re-elect all positions as stated above. **All in favor, motion passed.**

Article II

To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred twenty-six thousand, one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$426,175.00) for general precinct operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

Executive	\$ 12,150.00
Financial Administration	\$ 6,000.00
Legal	\$ 1,000.00
Government Buildings	\$ 35,876.00
Insurance	\$ 25,500.00
Fire	\$285,680.00 (Commissioner Howard noted this includes payroll and maintenance of apparatus.)
Street Lighting	\$ 600.00
Principal-Mini-Pumper Loan	\$ 55,197.17
Interest-Mini-Pumper Loan	\$ 4,171.83

With regard to the "Fire" line item, specifically Jewell Hill Station, Chief Huddleston explained that the Jewell Hill Station was built in 2009. Over the last 5 to 6 years, there has been issues with furnace. The heat exchanger has been replaced once under warranty and needs to be replaced again. The heat exchanger will be replaced but and this will get us through for now, but we need a new boiler which has not been planned for in the 2021 proposed budget. Bill Wrigley stated that in 2009, this was a top-of-the-line boiler. It is leaking CO this time not water. It is usable but it has to be replaced. Because of the water issues at the station, the best way to go would be stainless steel. The reliability, efficiency, and cost savings are better with newer equipment. Nick Anania stated when they put it in everybody was using these boilers but even then, it should not have been put in this building. He concurred with Bill Wrigley's comments. Commissioner Howard stated that we have done a temporary fix on the boiler and we need to replace it. We have squeezed the budget as much as we can and there is very little excess available. We are estimating an amount of \$12,500 to fix his issue. We are looking to increase the "Fire" line item (particular to Jewell Hill Maintenance) by \$12,500, bringing the new total to \$298,180.

Motion: by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to increase the "Fire" line item from \$285,680 to \$298,180. **All in favor, motion passed.**

Chief Huddleston stated this year has been a bit of a challenge for everybody. We did not foresee a pandemic and it caused change. West Ossipee Fire Department has always relied on one or two people to answer week-day calls. Unfortunately, those people are no longer able to leave work. We came up with a way to have firefighters at the station from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. This allows for coverage and short response time. The surrounding departments have been doing this for years. Due to COVID-19 there was no training so that covered the cost for this staffing change in 2020. This year we hope to be back to organized training and making up what was missed in 2020. Commissioners Meetings have been done via conference call. The budget is up for 2021. We have seen a 10% increase in calls, we hope to get back to and caught up on training, personal protection equipment was difficult to obtain at the beginning of 2020 and we had to resort to some alternate suppliers, etc. West Ossipee Fire Department currently has 19 members. 17 of those 19 members have EMS certification, which accounts for more than 75% of our calls.

Nick Anania, precinct member, asked if the firefighters working the Monday through Friday shifts are already West Ossipee Fire Fighters. Chief Huddleston stated yes, we were able to do it within current employees.

Commissioner Howard thanked the Department with all the challenges due to COVID-19. He was thrilled to see that the members of the department were able to get both vaccines.

Nick Anania, precinct member, asked if the increase in calls were COVID-19 related. Chief Huddleston stated no, not directly. But he said the number of people with second homes and being able to remote work/learn significantly increased of the number of people that are in the area. More people mean more calls.

Motion: by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to amend Article II to see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thirty-eight thousand, six hundred seventy-five dollars (\$438,675.00) for general precinct operations. **All in favor, 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 (Fire Department Firefighting and Rescue Equipment and Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund) for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining vehicles and other firefighting and rescue equipment. (Majority vote required)

Motion: by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Moore. **All in favor, motion passed.**

The meeting then continued back to Article I.

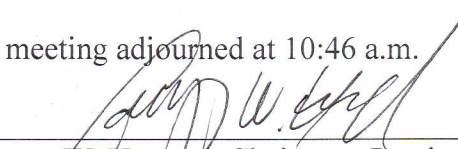
Article IV

To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting. There was none.

Adjournment

Motion: by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Nick Anania, to adjourn. **All in favor, motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.



Gregory W. Howard, Chairman, Precinct Commissioner

3/15/2021



Paula Moore, Precinct Commissioner



Denise Castle, Precinct Commissioner


Doris Ann P. Adenson, Precinct Clerk