

West Ossipee Fire Precinct
Jewell Hill Fire Station, West Ossipee, NH
2022 Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 12, 2022

Commissioners Present: Gregory W. Howard, Denise Castle, Patricia Pustell

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 10:10 a.m. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, then explained the meeting procedures, and introduced the chairmen, commissioners, treasurer, clerk, and secretary. Commission Howard, Chairman, thanked everyone for coming. He explained the Commissioners' role and how they make decisions for the Precinct. He explained the warrant article for the completion of the Jewell Hill fire suppression system. He spoke to the dedication and commitment of the firefighter's and recognized firefighters on the current roster. He recommended precinct members review the precinct website for minutes, audits, DRA reports, activity reports, where to get permits, etc.

Article I

Motion: by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Precinct Member Nick Anania, to move Article I to follow Article V. **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.

- One Commissioner for a term of three (3) years.
Patricia Pustell is willing to serve a three-year term.

Motion: by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Precinct Member Jennifer Brown, to vote Patricia Pustell in as a precinct commissioner. **All in favor, motion carried.**

- 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.

Commissioner Howard recognized former Commissioner Paula Moore for the 10+ years she served as a Precinct Commissioner. Paula moved out of the precinct and, therefore, had to resign as Commissioner. Her efforts over the 10+ years as a Commissioner helped to get the precinct to the position it is in today. Thank you.

Motion: by Precinct Member Nick Anania, seconded by Precinct Member Ann Kady, 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 forty thousand, six hundred seventy-five dollars (\$440,675.00) for general precinct operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

Executive	\$ 11,450.00
Financial Administration	\$ 6,100.00
Legal	\$ 1,000.00
Government Buildings	\$ 48,376.00
Insurance	\$ 25,500.00
Fire	\$288,280.00
Street Lighting	\$ 600.00
Principal-Mini-Pumper Loan	\$ 57,245.10
Interest-Long Term Bond	\$ 2,123.90

Moderator Pustell read the article. Commissioner Howard further explained the “Fire” line item. This is the second year we have had paid firefighters available to provide paid coverage. This has increased our payroll, but we have saved funds in other areas. Those of you who have been watching the Precinct over the last 10-11 years, have seen that we have played a lot of catch up on vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, and increasing the level of competency and qualification of members.

Chief Huddleston thanked all for coming. Over the last couple of years our call volume has increased about 10% each year. Covid played a significant part of that increase this year. 70% of what we do is EMS related. Our most valuable asset is our people and we have increased training and protective gear, etc. to take care of them. The mini pumper was purchased three years ago and was paid off in February of 2022. We do spend a considerable amount of money on vehicle maintenance. All of our equipment is starting to age and requires maintenance by specially trained technicians. We try to keep all our apparatus in proper condition according to the regulations. He mentioned the tower which is now 43 years old. At some point, this will have to be replaced. Through maintenance and on-going upkeep, we have been able to make do with it.

Precinct Member Nick Anania stated that at town meeting, it was decided that more streetlights would be put up and asked if that would affect the “Street Lighting” in the WOFB budget. Chief Huddleston explained that all those new streetlights will be in Center Ossipee. Discussion took place on changing the lights over to LEDs and if it would save money.

Commissioner Howard noted in February of 2022, the last payment was made on the mini pumper. Next year the line item for this vehicle will not exist. We will be putting something in its place. The cost of replacing the tower truck will not be able to be funded through our normal budget process. We will attempt to purchase a used one over the next

couple of years. If that does not happen, we will apply for grant funding but that would entail competing with other departments all over the county.

Motion: by Precinct Member Ann Kady, seconded by Precinct Member Nick Anania, to raise and appropriate the amount of four hundred forty thousand, six hundred seventy-five dollars (\$440,675.00) 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 Precinct Member Nick Anania, seconded by Firefighter Jessica Colpoys. **All in favor, motion passed.**

Article IV

To see if the Precinct will vote to establish the Jewell Hill Station Fire Suppression System Expendable Trust Fund Per RSA 31:19-a, for the installation of a cistern and pump for the fire suppression system and to raise and appropriate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from unassigned fund balance; further to name the Commissioners as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required)

Commissioner Howard explained that the Precinct would like to create this trust fund to accumulate the number of dollars needed to install the cistern pump system at Jewell Hill Station which is over \$200,000. The unassigned fund balance are monies that have been accruing since 2011. The Precinct has over \$200,000 in the unassigned fund balance. Commissioners determined we need to utilize those funds. Chief Huddleston noted that this fire suppression system project has been stalled for the past 5 years and it needs to become a higher priority. We will move \$100,000 from the unassigned fund balance specifically for completion of the fire suppression system at Jewell Hill Station, with the remaining money to be left available to use when we do have to act on replacing the tower truck. That way there will be some funds readily available without a significantly increasing of our annual budget. Going forward, we will manage the budget more tightly so that we do not allow this unassigned fund balance to grow as in the past years. Eleven years ago, we were, by far, the most expensive precinct in the town. Now, in reviewing the Town Report, all Precincts are pretty much in line with each other.

Moderator Pustell spoke to the work that has been done on the Jewell Hill Building and thanked the Commissioners, the Chief, and the Firefighters for their efforts.

Precinct Member Nick Anania asked if the Precinct would save money on insurance once the system is up and running. Chief Huddleston stated yes, but probably not much. By code, the building should have had a sprinkler system when it was constructed. At that

time, the commissioners chose not to install one because it was too expensive. He has a hard time mandating businesses in our precinct to have those systems in place when the fire department does not.

Motion: by Precinct Member Nick Anania, seconded Firefighter Jessica Colpoys.
All in favor, motion passed.

The meeting then continued back to Article I.

Article V

To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

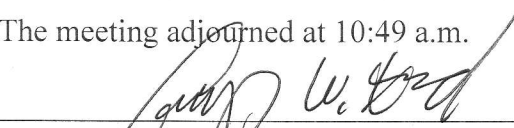
Commissioner Howard noted that the Commissioners meet the first and third Monday of the month. This is the only time that we can interact with the fire chief; we cannot conduct business via email or out of session. The information for any who would like to join the meeting by conference call is posted at the post office and at town hall. Once we begin meeting in person again, we meet at Central Station on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 6:00 pm.

Precinct Member Ann Kady informed everyone present that the Eastern Slope Clergy Association has organized a vigil for the people of Ukraine at 1:00 at Schuler Park in North Conway.

Adjournment

Motion: by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Firefighter Bill Wrigley, to adjourn. **All in favor, motion passed.**


The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.



Gregory W. Howard, Precinct Commissioner
Chairman 3/21/2022



Denise Castle, Precinct Commissioner 3/22/22



Patricia Pustell, Precinct Commissioner 3/22/22