

Selectboard Minutes
June 18, 2012

Meeting opened at 7:02pm

Present: Noreen Suriner, Chair; Alan Vint, Clerk
Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant
Absent: Mitch Feldmesser

Maureen Suriner came before the Board for her license; her business is Voice of Angels. She paid her \$25 fee and was given her license.

Ron Radwich was interviewed for the upcoming Fire Chief appointment; he had previously given a letter to the board to be considered for the appointment. He was asked what his vision for the dept was.

Ron felt the department had to re-organize and start moving forward, keep active with more training for all the members, finish the initial training for some of the new members by having them complete the 1st responders course. He felt there was enough interest to have the Fire Fighters 1 course be given at the Town's Fire Station. The FF1 course covers everything from tying knots to fighting interior fires. There are also courses available at the Fire Academy that members should take. He has 39 years of experience with Hinsdale and Middlefield fire Depts. He is currently the Assistant Chief as position he has held since the 90's.

Ron said there are currently 24 members of the dept. and it is most important to bring everybody in, have objectives and let the members speak. Need to find out what the members want to do, whether it is drive a truck, man a hose or just support the ones fighting the fire.

When questioned about attending meetings, he said if they were during the day while he was working he would delegate someone to go. The Berkshire County Fire Chief's Association is also another way to obtain useful information and that meeting is held at night so he would be free to go.

In response to a question about a disaster, he said he would tone the members out and those available would report to the station, he would not expect members whose own homes may in jeopardy to respond. The members would be able to aid the Highway and Police depts. in any way needed.

He also felt the Fire Station needed a good cleaning out and the Department could purchase uniforms/shirts through the Association.

Matt Radwich was interviewed next; he also had submitted a letter to the Board for consideration to be appointed Fire Chief. He was asked what his vision for the Dept was.

He would like the dept to be bigger, more active, update the training and equipment. There is a need to keep the new members interested by bringing in outside experts to give their insight on being a volunteer fireman. He would like a chance to bring the dept forward; he has 16 years in the dept and has been a Captain for 8 years. He has taken many courses including hazmat. He feels he has fairly strong leadership skills and would use the members' strengths to everyone's benefit. He is currently working with the new/younger members of the dept.

When questioned about attending meetings, he said he would go to as many as possible using his vacation time if they were during the work day or delegate another member to go. Night meetings he would attend.

He felt the Police, Fire and EMS should all work together especially in emergencies. The Town Hall and Senior Center would be used for sheltering; the Fire Station would not be a comfortable place for people to stay. He is also familiar with the COOP plan. Matt thanked the Board for the opportunity to be interviewed.

Larry Pease, current Fire Chief, was the last to be interviewed. He was asked what his vision for the Fire Dept was.

He said he has been chief for about 20 years and there is a new group of members who are willing to learn and he needs to educate and teach them as quickly as possible. They need to learn about the trucks, pumps, how to handle hoses. The members need to be competent to start doing what has to be done when they arrive on the scene until a superior officer arrives and if they are not sure they should wait for a superior officer to arrive.

He would like to arrange for the Fire Fighter 1 course to be given at the Fire Station as there are many members who want to take the course.

When questioned about attending meetings, Larry said he usually does not go the Berkshire County Fire Chief's meetings and he does not have regular contact with the local town's regarding Mutual Aid.

He said he is always looking for surplus equipment that would benefit the Fire Dept.

He is proud of having a dedicated crew and having them as friends as well. He is flexible at the dept meetings and lets the guys decide on what the dept needs to do at the meetings. He brings in new material he receives in magazine, letters, etc.

Noreen complimented Larry as she had only heard good things about the dept when they responded as 1st responders.

The Board thanked Larry for his attendance.

Alan said he had received questions as to why the Fire Chief's position was not posted.

Noreen advised the Board had received letters of interest from the other 2 interviewed. They had come to the Board and for consideration for the position.

Noreen motioned to adjourn, Alan 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:33pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes

Noreen Suriner, Chair

Alan Vint, Clerk

