

Fire Advisory Committee Meeting of October 14, 2014
Town Hall Conference Room A, 7 Summer Street

Attendees: Kermit LaBounty (Chair), Ken Preston and Dana Williams (RCFD), Larry Thurston and Michael Hildenbrandt (RVFD), Keven Taylor and Paul Campbell (ERFD), Michael Marshall (presentation), Tuthill Doane (Braintree), Cindy Spaulding (LEPC 12 rep), Jeff Brassard (BVFD), Trini Brassard (Liaison) and Alex Northern (VTC).

1. Call to order

Mr. LaBounty called the meeting to order at 1905 hours

2. Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2014

On motion by RCFD Assistant Chief Williams, seconded by RVFD Assistant Chief Thurston, the committee voted to approve the minutes of September 9, 2014 as written. Unanimously approved.

3. Fire Calls Page to Cell Phones

Michael Marshall presented to the members two vendors who provide digital messaging to first responders. EDispatches is internet based and provides a call log, group page, and voice recording with a cost of \$2150 per year with a set-up fee of \$200 for equipment to be staged at a fire station. Active 911 provides text address, map, pictures, hydrants, preplans, responders, location, call log and group page with a cost of \$630 per year for 60 phones. This would enhance communications in toning out first responders to a call.

On motion by RCFD Chief Preston, seconded by RCFD Assistant Chief Williams, the committee voted to pursue Active 911, add Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department to the fire department list and to consult with Barre City Dispatch. Unanimously approved.

4. Communications

a. Status of Memorandum of Understanding with VTC

The committee received a draft MOU for mutual aid services with VTC Fire Science. The consensus of the committee was to table until all members were in attendance to discuss.

b. Dispatch Protocol

VTCFS Director Northern mentioned the latter part of the MOU discussing dispatch protocol may change after his meeting with VSP Captain Keefe and Deputy Chief Marceau of Barre City Dispatch.

VTCFS Director Northern mentioned that the DART training needs to be moved to a weekend. It was the consensus of the committee to schedule it on November 1.

c. Antenna

The new antenna was installed two weeks ago at the tower in Randolph Center. The Chiefs report there is still issues from time to time concerning scratchiness over the airways when paging and that one of the dispatchers still is difficult to understand when being toned out.

5. Dry Hydrant

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The committee received a proposal to place a new dry hydrant on Leonard Drive. The committee is concerned the location and area is not viable for drawing water from since it is a culvert pond.

On motion by RCFD Chief Preston, seconded by RVFD 2nd Assistant Chief Hildenbrand, the committee declined installing a dry hydrant on Leonard Drive. Unanimously approved.

6. Preparation of FY2016 Budgets

The committee received forms to prepare for the FY2016 budget. Discussion ensued regarding equipment needs.

Mrs. Brassard reported there is a grant opportunity to obtain funding for equipment that is over ten years old. The funding is through FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

7. Minimum Wage

On motion by ERFD Assistant Chief Taylor, seconded by BVFD Assistant Chief Brassard, the committee approved the following wages effective January 1, 2015: \$9.15 – Firefighter; \$10.07 Lieutenant; \$11.07 – Captain; \$12.18 Assistant Chief; and \$13.40 Chief. Unanimously approved.

It was the consensus of the committee not to act on minimum wage of \$9.60 effective January 1, 2016 until it has been confirmed as it is possible it to be brought back up in legislature.

8. Auxiliary and Apparatus Equipment

There was nothing to report.

9. Other Business

RCFD Chief Preston announced that RCFD, Bethel Fire Department, and VTC Fire Science will be at the Can Do event at VTC on October 16.

10. Adjournment

At 2038 hours, on motion by RVFD Assistant Chief Thurston, seconded by BVFD Assistant Chief Brassard, the committee adjourned until its next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall Conference Room A, 7 Summer Street. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Spaulding
LEPC 12 Representative