

Fire Advisory Meeting of June 10, 2014
Town Hall Conference Room A, Randolph Town Offices

Attendees – Kermit Labounty, Jay Collette and Larry Thurston (RVFD), Jeff Brassard and Kevin Wheatley (Brookfield), Trini Brassard (Liaison), Dana Williams and Ken Preston (RCFD), Tut Doane (Braintree) and Paul Camp Bell (ERFD).

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Labounty at 19:04.

2. Minutes of May 13, 2014 –

On motion by RCFD Chief Preston, seconded by RVFD Chief Collette, the committee approved the meeting minutes of May 13, 2014 as amended. Unanimously approved.

Amendments are as follows:

8. Randolph Fire Department Road Standards are being included in the draft zoning regulations for Braintree.
9. Next scheduled meeting should be June 10, 2014.

3. **911 Mapping Coverage –**

The committee reviewed and discussed the E911 Mapping coverage charts provided by E911 Coordinator. Sanchez. RVFD Chief Collette will contact Ms. Sanchez regarding the committee members discussion.

4. **Communications**

There is an ongoing issue with static and background noise was discussed and the following was determined:

- Problem is when dispatch responds and not when the firemen are talking with each other
- Discussion with dispatch on a cell phone had static in the background
- The male dispatcher is always clear and the problem seems to be when the female dispatcher is replying. Is it possible they use the same console each time they work so it could be narrowed down this way?
- Town Manager should follow up with Barre City and see if there are others they are dispatching that have the same problems
- Pagers are alerting fine

Mr. Doane informed the committee that the Braintree Selectboard is looking at obtain new radio frequency numbers. It has been stated that they have an application into the FCC that is being managed by the Board Chair.

On motion by RCFD Chief Preston, seconded by RVFD Chief Collette, the committee strongly recommends for Randolph Town Manager Adams to send a letter to the Town of Braintree Selectboard by June 17, 2014 advising them that a change of frequency will impact communications for town road crew from neighboring communities, fire departments from neighboring communities that could respond either as the primary or mutual aid, law enforcement (Vermont State Police,

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Sheriff, local police), school bus, EMS in addition to Braintree radios. There is a cost associated with the reprogramming radios to the new frequency, which Randolph and Brookfield would seek reimbursement from Braintree. The invoice would include the cost of collecting the radios, reprogramming and redistributed back to their respective departments. The radio frequencies were recently coordinated to ensure that all departments are able to communicate with each other.

5. Auxiliary and Apparatus Equipment

The Randolph Center Fire Department's tanker/rescue truck has been delivered and is in-service. There is training planned in July/August for all Randolph and Brookfield Fire Department personnel.

6. Drills/Training –

The VTC burn building is available for training by the fire departments and they are open to any type of training that could accommodate a department or groups. The training should be defined by the fire department and coordinated with the VTC Fire Program Director. Dates available were handed out and departments will let Preston know if any are interested in reserving one or more of them.

7. Other Business

The Town of Braintree's Fire Warden passed away and the Selectboard has nominated Lauren Bent to take on the responsibility. This is pending for the next Brookfield Selectboard meeting.

The Fireworks for the July 4th weekend are scheduled for July 3. RCFD will be mutual aid back up to RVFD during the fireworks event.

8. Adjournment

At 2015 hours, on motion by RVFD Chief Collette, second by RCFD Chief Preston, the committee adjourned until its next scheduled meeting of July 8, 2014 at 1900 hours in Town Hall Conference Room A at 7 Summer Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Trini Brassard
Selectboard Liaison to Fire Advisory

TB:csds

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Draft letter – very rough, intended just to give the basis for the letter. I did tell folks I would provide this basic write up to give the “flavor” if what they wanted to express to the entire Selectboard of Braintree. It appears the chair is taking this action and folks do not understand all the work that went into getting everyone so they could talk now. A change without all this coordination is going to mean someone cannot talk during an event with those that have a different frequency (can’t talk to road crew if you need sand for example in the winter). If you want to discuss this so it is clear I am available.

I am writing to express concern over information that has been provided to us regarding the Town of Braintree applying for new radio frequencies. Back in (NEED YEAR) the communities worked together to change the frequencies and coordinate updates to all our communication equipment. This required coordination with all neighboring communities as well as state and county services to be sure the equipment was compatible and the communications could continue when needed with law enforcement, fire services, EMS services, dispatch services, road crews, school bus, emergency disaster services and municipal employees.

A change in the radio frequency used by the Town of Braintree will require reprogramming of all this communication equipment which comes with a cost to collect the radios, reprogram them and then distribute them back to those that need them. Should the Town of Braintree choose to move forward with a change of radio frequency the Town of Randolph will look to you to reimburse the cost for this change. A lack of coordination will cause an interruption in these services when they cannot communicate in a time of need so it is very important that everyone be included in the process as you move forward so planning for this change can take place in each organization that needs to take action to continue services. A change in frequency without coordination will result in putting the members of Braintree at risk for emergency services.