

Fire Advisory Meeting of June 9, 2015  
Town Hall Conference Room A, 7 Summer Street

Attendees: Kermit LaBounty (Chair), Jay Collette and Larry Thurston (RVFD), , Kevin Wheatley and Jeff Brassard (Brookfield Fire), Bill Bohynak (Orange County Sheriff), Tuthill Doane (Braintree), Paul Campbell (ERFD), Ken Preston and Dana Williams (RCFD), Sandy Vitzthum (State of Vermont, Buildings and General Services) and Mark Geraghty of Radio North (via phone).

1. Call to order

Mr. LaBounty called the meeting to order at 1904 hours.

2. Minutes

On motion by RCFD Chief Preston, seconded by RVFD Chief Collette, the committee voted to approve the minutes of May 12, 2015 as amended. Unanimously approved.

3. State of Vermont Lab at VTC campus

Sandra Vitzthum of Vermont Buildings and General Services presented an overview of the State Lab Project including the types of lab service, which will be located on the VTC campus off of Furnace Road.

Discussion ensued with highlights:

- Fire Hydrants: add an additional fire hydrant at the north side of the project near the two access roads near Furnace road. The hydrants piping should be adequate to sustain 1,000 gallons per minute.
- Connector: Change Siamese connection to a 4" Storz
- Fire Alarm System: move fire alarm panel closer to the main entrance
- Install a Knox box on the building near the main entrance

Mrs. Vitzthum will bring RCFD Chief Preston proof of the changes and installation of the fire hydrants prior to the Chief signing the documents for the project.

4. Backup Plan for Dispatch/Communications

Sheriff Bohynak provided an overview of the type of back up dispatching the Sheriff's Department. OCS has the equipment, which is not installed at the station at this time, but it would be limited to voice dispatching, as the equipment does not include tone-out capability. Sheriff Bohynak also indicated that there would be no cost for the backup service. He also indicated that he is trying to market a dispatching service By telephone, Mark Geraghty of Radio North informed the committee the old console, is in storage in Barre is the property of the Town of Randolph, which was replaced a few years ago at Barre City Dispatch. He mention this could be moved to OCS to make the system complete.

FA is not only interested in this as a backup but also wants to see if the relocation from their transmitting tower to ours will increase the quality of transmission service and long term to understand if it makes sense to make a switch in service providers. It was the consensus of the committee for Radio North and OCS coordinate the equipment.

Fire Advisory Meeting of June 9, 2015  
Town Hall Conference Room A, 7 Summer Street

5. Communications

The committee mentioned the radio communication with Barre City Dispatch had deteriorated again after the last few rainstorms. Radio North inspection of the communications issue week of 6/5/15 found that our new antenna was not working. They climbed the tower and found a significant amount of moisture in the antenna. They cleaned the moisture draining holes but indicated that with the amount of water found in the antenna it could be cracked. Following the moisture removal transmissions appeared to be markedly improved but it now appears to be deteriorating yet again. The only way for us to truly know if the antenna is flawed is for them to climb the tower and inspect for moisture, which they have asked to do. If they find the antenna to be flawed they will be prepared to replace it at that time. The mounting bracket will be replaced regardless. If they find the antenna in working order we will need to start looking at other areas for the potential problem.

Kevin Wheatly informed the committee that Brookfield received their contract for renewal with BCD for an additional three years. RFD Chiefs inquired if the town of Randolph received one.

6. Communications

RVFD Chief Collette informed the committee that Radio North is scheduled for June 17 to reprogram all of the fire radios with Braintree's new frequency. It was reported that the expense of reprogramming would be paid for by the Town of Braintree.

7. Other Business

Discussion ensued regarding small group training on the Tower truck.

8. Adjournment

At 2045 hours, on motion by RVFD Chief Collette, seconded by RVFD Assistant Chief Thurston, the committee voted to adjourn until its next scheduled meeting of July 14, 2015 at 1900 hours at the Town Hall Conference Room A, 7 Summer Street. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kermit LaBounty  
Chair