

Joint Fire Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 2, 2016

6:15 PM – Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department – Route 103 Transportation Park

Members Present: Willis Stearns II, Municipal Manager; Denis Jeffery, RVFD Chief; Ann DiBernardo, Selectboard Representative; Arthur Smith, Jr, SRVFD Chief, Mathew Brennan, Saxtons River Trustee Representative; Ronald Lake, BFFD Administrative Chief; Stefan Golec, Bellows Falls Trustee Representative; Kevin Demond, RVFD; Mike Furgat, SRVFD

Others present: Aaron Warren, KME Sales Representative; Lawrence White, RVFD; Kevin Kingsbury, RVFD; Tim Jeffery, RVFD; Walter Kesek, SRVFD; Wade Masure, RVFD

The meeting was called to order by Stearns at 6:18 PM. Nominations for a Committee Chair and Recording Clerk were requested. *DiBernardo stated that in the past the Manager was the chair and recording clerk and moved that Willis Stearns, II be the chair and recording clerk. Golec seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The vote was unanimous.*

Additions to the agenda: DiBernardo requested that the Jaws of Life be added to the agenda. Stearns indicated that this would be placed under item 4.

There were no minutes of a previous meeting to approve.

Public Comment: No statements were made under public comment.

Agenda:

1. The members of the Committee were introduced along with their representative positions.
2. Presentation – KME - Aaron Warren:

The document copies available were distributed for the Saxtons River pumper/tanker. A review and discussion resulted in some slight modification as presented. This specification was the same as all previous requests made to other vendors. This is a fully equipped 2,000 gallon tanker with a 1,250 gallons per minute pump. The estimated price as was \$265,000 with a potential 3% discount available if pre-paid.

The document copies available were distributed for the Rockingham pumper/tanker. A review and discussion resulted in some additions from the previous requests made to other vendors. Those changes reflected approximately a \$6,000 increase on the provided documents. This is a truck equipped with a 3,000 gallon tank, 20 gallon foam system, and a 1,500 gallon per minute pump. The additions were for a deck gun raised 18 inches including a nozzle plus 500 feet of 4 inch hose and two hook poles. The estimated price was \$310,000 before a value was placed on the trade in of the current truck in service. The request was for \$35,000 as a trade in value to KME.

(DiBernardo excused herself from the meeting during this time.)

3. A review of the estimated provided by all vendors with product differences as discussed among all present. Masure expressed it was not proper to have this discussion with a vendor present. Stearns indicated this was a warned open meeting and would not request anyone to leave. *Lake made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard to fund the purchase of two fire trucks, one for Saxtons River Volunteer Fire Department and one for Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department in an amount up to \$575,000 using the authorized amount from the town meeting vote and funds available from current fiscal year. Golec seconded the motion. Brennan asked if the amount was for \$575,000 and Stearns explained it was for up to \$575,000. The vote was unanimous.*

4. Discussion ensued about additional needs of the fire departments. First was the topic of Jaws and current conditions. SRVFD and RVFD have devices which are not in fully functioning order. Masure questioned who was asking if RVFD needed one and why the town needs more than one set? *Lake made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard to fund the purchase of a hydraulic rescue tool for the Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department from funds available in the current year in an amount up to \$50,000. Golec seconded the motion.* Discussion about the options, price range and source began. It was felt that it would likely be around \$30,000. Golec indicated he would look into this before Tuesday. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Open discussion of other types of equipment in poor condition or non-existent with a department led to Smith expressing SRVFD does not have a thermal imaging camera. *Lake made a motion to recommend that the Selectboard fund the purchase of a thermal imaging camera for Saxtons River Volunteer Fire Department from funds available in the current year for \$12,000. Brennan seconded the motion.* Lake explained the BFFD just made the same purchase this year to replace one of two units no longer serviceable. The value of such a device was agreed to be tremendous for investigation of sources. *The motion passed unanimously.*

The discussion moved on to vent saws. RVFD and SRVFD have outdated demolitions saws that are bulky and hard to manage if they run at all. *Lake made a motion to recommend that the Selectboard purchase two demolitions saws, one for Saxtons River Volunteer Fire Department and one for Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department from funds available in the current year for \$3,600. Brennan seconded the motion.* Lake explained that BFFD just replaced theirs and it was good timing based on the Green Street event. The brand was chosen due to local serviceability of the product. *The motion passed unanimously.*

Next was the age of SCBA devices at the Departments. Lake explained that BFFD was just awarded funding for 20 SCBA units from the Fire Act Grant. The units being replaced would be upgrades from current systems in both departments for what little remaining useful life they may have. Bottles, gear quantities and ages revealed a need to collaborate on resources. Lake offered to assist in grant preparation with the SRVFD and RVFD to help obtain additional funding during the next cycle. RVFD has a need for replacement in 2019. SRVFD is already outdated. These items will continue to be evaluated for best distribution during the new unit arrivals at BFFD.

Other Business:

- Stearns asked if the SRVFD and RVFD are interested in the Town supporting On Call Pay to the membership of those two departments. Smith and Jeffery both indicated no. That would create a totally different culture in the organizations.

Adjourn: Brennan made a motion to adjourn. Lake seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Attest: Willis Stearns II, Municipal Manager