

## **Capital Equipment Needs Assessment Committee**

**November 15, 2016**

Attendees: Bob Lenox, John Bunce, Phil Castelli, Rick Lothrop, Gary Robinson, Barbara Roland, Jason Walters, Andrew Ward and Bob West.

Absent: Don Bennett and Bud French.

Meeting called to order at 7.17 pm.

Minutes reviewed and accepted as written.

Bob Lenox explained the three warrant articles for the fire department. First, adding funds of \$25,000 to the capitol reserve fund for future equipment needs. Second, four dry hydrants—one replacement and three new to be installed. The third was Forest Fire Fighting equipment totaling \$5,945.00 (see attached list compiled by Jason Walters).

Bob Lenox recommended we accept these three warrants. Phil Castelli seconded and they were unanimously accepted. Bob will be submitting the rough draft versions to the Select Board. Gary Robinson indicated that the draft of warrant articles is due the second week of December and finalized copy in January.

Gary checked on permitting for dry hydrants and referred Jason to Edie she has send an email to the appropriate department to get specifics of paperwork needed for their instillation. Jason will do more investigation and hopes to have specifics for the January meeting. Jason said he is unsure of the costs until he gets that information.

Bob did further research regarding insurance rates especially impacted by number and proximity of fire stations within Nelson. He spoke to the State of New Hampshire Insurance Commission and found out that based on a Public Participation Classification form which is completed annually rates are determined. Bob is checking into who is currently filling out this form for Nelson.

The Insurance Service Organization (ISO) compiles the information per community which is used to determine insurance rates. They use a point system to access risk. Categories they examine include: water availability, type of fire department—volunteer vs. paid, mutual aid

participation, age and type of equipment, loss runs, etc. This is done on a point system per community.

Barbara also contacted her insurance company and learned many of the same things Bob did. Her insurance company (which is one of the major carriers) said that they ask if the homeowner is within five miles of a fire station and which does not need to be paid a fire department. The insurance company representative said that Barbara's home (based on proximity to a fire station) was in a Protection Class 9 (PC9) which afforded her roughly a \$300 credit in her rates. If a homeowner was more than five miles from a fire station she said they would pay a much higher premium and potentially would not be able to get a homeowners policy. The person at the insurance company stated that the biggest insurance companies probably would not cover a PC10 (higher risk) homeowner and they might need to go to a high risk carrier.

Gary will check on the status of the hazardous site on Nelson Road that the State of NH is currently using. There was a discussion about whether the property has been cleaned up and what type of hazard is involved. It was agreed that if the site is hazardous the town of Nelson should exert pressure with the state elected officials to get it cleaned up.

Bob discussed the next meeting after the holidays of the committee. January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Central Station for a walk through of the equipment/vehicles. We would also go to the Granite Lake Station to access the equipment housed there. January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm would be a second meeting at the library to discuss follow up on issues being researched and going forward with grant requests.

Bob stated that the DUNN's number and SAM's number needed for grant applications have been received.

John Bunce wanted to ask for input for the newly formed Fireworks Ordinance Committee. He explained that due to a resident's complaint about noise from fireworks research was being done about the possibility of an ordinance to bring to town meeting. He explained that seven towns in New Hampshire have such ordinances and it is the joint responsibility of the police and fire departments to enforce such an ordinance. Permitting for fireworks is handled by the local fire department. John asked Jason his feeling about this and both he and Andrew felt it would be difficult to enforce and might distract them from fire calls. Jason stated that he was not really looking to take on this type of added responsibility/monitoring.

8:28 pm Bob motioned we adjourn the meeting, Andrew seconded and all were in favor.

