

Benson Fire Dept Meeting Minutes 4/8/26

Unapproved

Members Present: Dave Bartholomew, Adam Stewart, Donny Parker, John Sebastian, Grady Glover

Public Present: Lincoln Munger

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:39

Public comment: None.

Approve Agenda: Dave made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Grady.
Motion Passed.

Approve Minutes: Dave made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (2/11/26), seconded by Donny.
Motion Passed.

Treasurers Report: No treasurers report, tabled to next meeting.

Calls Since Previous Meeting:

2/11 2813 22a for 2 car MVA w/ entrapment

2/18 663 Howard Hill Rd for CO Detector

2/18 5322 Stage Rd for CO Detector

2/21 22a Orwell North of North Cross Rd for traffic control

3/29 1078 Stage Rd brush fire

3/29 912 Lake Rd for brush fire

4/5 Intersection of Frazier Hill Rd and North Lake Rd for wires down in the roadway

Old Business:

- SCBA Bottles
 - Dave will try to schedule a time to re-hydrotest bottles and repair water rescue suits while in Burlington in the near future.

- Fill Station
 - Reynolds has a hose but is waiting on a replacement gauge.
 - Brian from Firetec is working on getting us a replacement for the hose and gauges. He will have the hose replaced by Friday and he will order the gauge (not sure on wait time for that). We will switch to Firetec for our future compressor servicing due to slow response from Reynolds.

- Rescue Truck
 - No serious offers on the rescue truck
 - We have one offer for \$4000 on the first response truck
 - Adam makes a motion to list our rescue truck on Auctions International if the first response truck buyer will not take both trucks for \$6000, seconded by Grady.

Motion passed.

- Sale of Fire Dept Items
 - We have one potential buyer for the jaws, we will consider any reasonable offers. If this potential buyer does not want them we will include them in the auction.

New Business:

- Rescue Truck Replacement
 - Our bid of \$25,300 on the Rockingham VT rescue truck was not enough to win the auction. The final sale price was \$30,300.
 - The winner of the auction is listing the truck for sale on Facebook Marketplace for \$40,000 and is considering trades.
 - We will offer \$25,000 and our two rescue trucks as partial trades along with the set of jaws. If no deal is reached, we will continue to gather quotes from 3 dealers for a cutaway van with a service body.

- 4 Gas Meter Cylinder
 - Our new 4 gas meter uses a different mixture than the previous MSA meter. The incorrect gas was ordered by mistake.
 - Brian from Firetec is trying to find a department in need of MSA gas, if he does he will sell it at a discounted rate to them and offer a partial refund.
 - He will calibrate our meter with the correct gas on Friday or Monday and order us the correct gas.

- Station Repairs/Replacement
 - The current station system is not practical or safe for a variety of reasons, and the buildings are in need of major repairs and updates. Some of the impracticalities include very limited room for both engines in the lower station, limited to no fire member parking especially on busy nights at the Wheel Inn, a sagging support beam in upper station, cracking and drifting floor in upper station, major roof leaks in upper station, animals and insects living within the walls and roof of the upper station, too short of doors in upper stations that do not allow us to park trailer or some rescue truck models indoors, and issues with truck wash station. Other concerns include no truck exhaust removal system in the lower station, a

broken custom-sized window in the upper station, and cramped conditions in the upper station.

- A new station for the Fire Department and First Response has been a project that hasn't moved forward since 2017, where it was an action item in the Town Plan. The current properties do not allow for a practical consolidation to one building.
- Some properties that were mentioned as possible new station sites were 10 acres for sale at 2280 Stage Rd, listed at \$125,000, the burned down home lot at 2802 Stage Rd, (not currently listed), or the town-owned property between the Town Office and Town Hall in front of the cemetery and behind the current driveway loop. The town-owned property would be the best fit due to proximity to the village, minimal clearing work, and ease of property agreements with the town.
- Dave will have a surveyor look at the property between the Town Office and town hall to get an estimate on the cost of dirt work before moving forward with any decisions.
- John recommended Grady take lead of the station replacement project.
- Grady made a motion to take lead of the station replacement project, seconded by Donny.

Motion Passed.

- Grady, along with other members, will host an open house at the firehouse highlighting issues and safety concerns in the near future to gain support for this project.
- New Equipment:
 - Due to John's recent completion of the Vermont Firefighter 1 Course, we will order a new set of turnout gear, boots, and helmet to outfit him for his role as an interior firefighter.
 - Bullard is doing a giveaway for up to 25 of their new "Lowrider" fire helmets. They require a 30-90 second video introducing your department and why you need the helmets. Grady is currently working on a video for an application.
 - Adam will look at Home Depot for a variety of mechanix gloves for extrication.
 - Grady will call Genesis for replacement tool battery costs.
 - Grady will make a list of amazon items to give to Heidi. Items include tubular webbing, mechanix gloves (if better price), and a new whiteboard.
- Hayride/Fundraising
 - The hayride is deemed to be unsafe and a cause for liability problems, especially due to a lack of volunteers. Therefore, we have decided to not bring back the haunted hayride in the future.

- Other fundraising ideas mentioned were: Ice fishing derby, 5k adventure race, outdoor item raffle, basket raffle, pancake breakfast, Wheel Inn Tuesday night dinner collaboration, and the return of the Family Day Barbecue. Members will see what the requirements are for these fundraisers and discuss them at the next meeting.
 - Hayride items not used at this year's Trunk or Treat will be donated to the Pittsford Fire Department for the Pittsford Haunted House.
- Station Cleaning
 - Once the rescue truck is sold and the weather permits, members will clear out both stations and wash and seal floors.
 - Hydrant Testing
 - This month's training will be hydrant and demo nozzle testing.
 - Note: Finish installment on dry hydrant near Donny Parker's House.
 - The camp at Sunset Lake Rd is planning to expand their facilities by adding cabins, a large kitchen, as well as a commercial fire alarm system. Members would like to conduct a pre-incident survey at the property.
 - An idea was mentioned to start charging a service fee for repetitive commercial fire alarm activations as Castleton Fire Department does at the college campus.
 - Meeting/Training Date Change to Increase Turnout
 - Grady makes a motion to move meetings and trainings to Tuesday nights at the same times as currently implemented starting next month to increase potential new members with existing scheduling conflicts, seconded by Donny.

Motion Passed.

- Truck Servicing
 - Treadway was working to get parts to schedule truck maintenance and inspections.
 - If Treadway does not schedule a service date Adam will schedule servicing with Central VT for maintenance, inspections, and pump repairs.
- Grants
 - Grady is still working on setting up a NVFC account for the turnout gear giveaway. Other grants for cash awards were mentioned, Grady will look into them.

- Bylaws
 - Reviewed and discussed bylaws and SOGs for junior members.
- Boat trailer
 - The current boat trailer is too light and is made out of wood. This results in poor control on the roadway and floating issues when launching or retrieving the rescue boat.
 - Grady will look at a new or used boat trailer from Woodard Marine and consider offers on our current trailer after a purchase if one is made.

Officer/Member Issues or Reports:

- Reviewed structure fire mutual aid response and helicopter landing zones.

Adjourn: Dave made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Grady
Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51