

HYDE PARK SELECTBOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES June 5, 2012

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Members Present: David Gagnier (DG), Chair; Mike Dubie (MD); Roland Boivin (RB); and Roger Audet (RA)
Members Absent: Brian Jones (BJ), Vice-Chair; and Chief Ed Webster from HPFD
Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Four of Six HPFD Officer, Ryan Nolan, Kevin Audet, Brad Carriere, and George Cook . John Savage, NHP/Eden Fire Assistant Chief, appeared at 6:40 p.m.

DG called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at HPFD.

1. **Fire Department Personnel and Policy Issues** – DG explained that the Selectboard (SB) thought it would be good to meet with the fire department to improve communications and gain a better understanding of policies and practices within the town. The fire officers expressed their appreciation for the SB liaison and encouraged MD to attend their officer meetings every month or two in the future to keep lines of communication open. The officers expressed their dislike for the Selectboard's order to end car washing and "loitering" at the fire station as it was felt as a slap in the face to volunteers. DG explained that he had observed car washing in very cold weather with the doors to the station open as well as individuals hanging out at the station in late evenings, both of which he felt should not be occurring. DG suggested that the officers could help tighten up controls on the use of the facility and that the Selectboard could reconsider its policies in the future. The officers agreed that there were things they could work on internally and that the Selectboard should continue to communicate through the liaison to monitor progress. Items that could be worked on over time by the officers:
 - a. Assistant Fire Chief needs to be more informed of what the Chief duties currently are
 - b. Officers need to tighten controls on all members, regarding use of facility
 - c. Selectboard liaison should be invited to meetings and kept informed of major issues
 - d. A non-officer member of the fire department should be selected to meet with the officers as a "firefighter liaison" for the monthly business meetings
 - e. The officers should set a regular date for officer meetings
 - f. Roger Audet and Ron Rodjenski will prepare draft job descriptions for officers to be edited by the officers and considered for adoption by the Selectboard

Rodjenski advised that the officers could pick one or two of the work items to focus on at first. Ryan Nolan advised that more funds should be set aside for fire equipment purchases which are increasing rapidly each year. Rodjenski agreed that it would be ideal to have the operating budget matched with a significant capital replacement fund and a smaller emergency purchases fund to level out the annual budget request to taxpayers. The officers noted that they wanted to continue providing water for folks wanting to fill swimming pools and the Selectboard agreed to continue the practice until the Selectboard considers a policy to address insurance and liability issues as well as commercial competition concerns that might exist.

2. **Emergency Management (6:40 p.m.)** – Brad Carriere explained that while the town follows the National Incident Management System (NIMS) there is no adopted policy by the Selectboard requiring the various town emergency managers and responders to follow it. Motion by MD to adopt the NIMS Resolution. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Brad has prepared an update to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which lists contact information for emergency responders and town officials. DG thanked Brad for his good work in keeping this important document up-to-date. Motion by MD to approve the 2012 EOP. Seconded by RA. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Brad explained that the current town volunteer list only has one emergency management coordinator, and that the town should have an additional Director and Deputy positions, to support the town's emergency response system. Motion by RA to appoint Brad as Emergency Management Director (EMD), John Savage as Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and Ron Rodjenski as Deputy EMC. Seconded by MD. Voting: 4 in favor, 0 against, motion passed. Brad also suggested that these three positions be covered by the town's workers' compensation insurance when performing emergency management activities to which the board concurred and approved the adding of these three positions to the town's WC policy.
3. **Adjourn** – Motion by RA to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by MD. So voted.