

Morris VFD 3/20/2017 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday 3/20/2017 by K. DeRoehn. The pledge of allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

Voting members in attendance: J. Skilton, N. Cast, Ken Cast, K. DeRoehn, M. DeRoehn, V. Aiello, D. Teddick, M. Silver, L. Duffy, T. Duffy, B. Duffy, A. LeCuyer, K. Shemms.

Non-Voting members in attendance: None.

Juniors: None.

13 voting members, 0 non-voting members, 0 juniors.

Secretary's report

Motion by V. Aiello to accept the minutes from last month's meeting. Motion seconded by M. DeRoehn. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by J. Skilton to accept the minutes from the special meeting of March 17, 2017. Motion seconded by M. DeRoehn. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report

Report for the month of February made by K. DeRoehn. Passed around to members.

Motion made by A. Aiello to accept the treasurer's report for the month of February, 2017.

Motion seconded by L. Duffy. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by L. Duffy to pay the bills. Motion seconded by J. Skilton. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief's report

On May 23 Fail Safe going to Bethlehem for hose testing. Requesting man power from Town.

June 21-24, 2017 New England Fire/Rescue EMS expo at Foxwoods. Information posted.

Task Force Tip re: firefighting equipment. Information passed around.

Engine 1, 5, 3 and Rescue: service quote from Gowans-Knight Company dated January 31, 2017 came in. Information sent to the Town.

Burrville Summer Accelerated Fire 1 and 2 program: looking to MVFD for sponsoring. Discussion. Driver training check list review/discussion. Watertown does an annual copy of driver's licenses for members. Morris will begin same practice.

State class upcoming: fighting fires with the State of CT (wild fires). Information posted. See Joel or Ken, if interested.

Check points and meetings and drills. This is the last month of the first quarter. If you're missing anything have to get a letter to the Executive Committee before month's end.

Deputy Chief's report

This Thursday: invited to Bethlehem for vehicle extrication. Starts at 7:00. Meet here at the fire department before 7:00 so that members can arrive on time for the start of this drill.

Approaching the end of the quarter.

Sunday: Bethlehem invited us to bring Engine 3 for annual water moving drill on Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

Pump operation class: May 5-7, 2017. Scheduled here at the MVFD.

Extrication class upcoming, as well as possibly bringing in driving simulator.

Burrville: chimney fire class to be scheduled.

January: strategy tactics class was held. Discussion on paying Litchfield Catering Company and Cardinal Grill their past due invoices for food provided during that training weekend. Motion made by J. Skilton for the MVFD to pay past due invoices to Litchfield Catering Company and Cardinal Grill that the Town has not paid and to continue to submit receipts to the Town for reimbursement. Motion seconded by A. LeCuyer. Motion carried unanimously.

Captain's report

3 new radios and 5 new pagers received.

Gear discussion. Purchase order went to the Town for the helmets, pants and boots needed. No information received from the Town as of yet. MVFD will follow-up.

Trucks checks and air pack checks completed.

Purchase order for air pack flow testing scheduled in May submitted to the Town.

Discussion on difficulty with obtaining funding from the Town to perform necessary testing and to receive necessary safety equipment and gear.

Lieutenant's report

B. Duffy: No report. Not present.

L. Duffy: No report.

P. Turner: No report. Not present.

EMS Coordinator's report

K. DeRoehn: No report.

Committee reports

Chaplain Committee:

No report.

Executive Committee

Meeting held on March 6. Discussion on pension points; report being prepared. Physicals discussed.

House Committee

Discussion on possibility of obtaining a grant for a new ice making machine.
Discussion on repairing the water system prior to investing in another machine.

Membership and Nominating

Letter of resignation dated March 20, 2017 received from Jennifer Duffy. She is moving to Thomaston and will live too far away to attend calls.
Motion to accept letter with regret made by M. Silver. Motion seconded by Ken Cast. Motion carried unanimously.

Woman's Auxiliary:

Spent grant money: meters for gas testing and food processor, which was picked up.
Went to fire on West Morris Road and brought water and Gatorade. Next meeting March 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Town wide tag sale (May 15) forms are at the printers. Will be sent out by April 1.

Audit Committee

No report.

By-Laws Committee

No report.

Fire Prevention and Publicity

Discussion on newspaper article.

Charity

No report.

Fundraising

Motion to create ball committee and make A. Cast chairman made by Ken Cast. Motion seconded by K. DeRoehn. Motion carried unanimously.

Uniforms and Parade Committee

Discussion on Engine 2: Work \$4750. Truck is safe to drive. Low on power due to how long the truck sat (approximately \$800.-\$1,000.00 to repair). Also, truck has no muffler on it, there is a leak in the exhaust and problems with the floor. Total additional monies needed to repair these issues = approximately \$700.00. Tires look good and are "parade ready". Discussion on using the monies reserved for tires to completely repair truck instead. Motion made by J. Skilton to pay up to \$1,500.00 on additional repairs needed on Engine 2. Seconded by A. LeCuyer. Motion carried unanimously.

Education committee

No report.

Junior Committee:

No report.

Old Business

75th Anniversary discussion: banner over 3 large truck bays (45 feet long; 2 ½ feet wide) cost = \$1970. Discussion.

T-Shirts: Can purchase them from the MVFD website. Will be available for purchase at the roast beef dinner as well.

Menu for caterer discussed.

B. Duffy playing in the charity tournament: homeless veterans program. Motion made by K. DeRoehn to again make a donation of \$500.00 to this tournament that takes place on Sunday, March 26. Motion seconded by K. Shemms. Motion carried unanimously. Bryan will be getting tickets, if interested in going.

Motion made by Ken Cast:

A motion of the MVFD in response to the event of Friday, March 17, 2017 when a Board of Selectman meeting was held whereby the First Selectman purported to bring forth a motion that was more an act of grandstanding rather than a true act of problem solving. This is clear in that this motion should have backed up his statement made on March 13, 2017 that the Town of Morris was choosing to employ a contractor referenced as option #6 in the letter from the MVFD dated March 3, 2017, all these options outlined in this letter were either permanent or long term solutions. However, the motion on March 17, 2017 was only valid until March 31, 2017 and due to his poor choice of wording "provide professional EMS service" even this gesture was overruled by the regulating authority at the State of Connecticut. The First Selectman then went on to outline two options for the MVFD. The first supposed option was to have the MVFD pay money for a contract he knew was cancelled, money he claims belongs to the Town of Morris. Further due to First Selectman Weik's lack of understanding that the Office of Emergency Medical

Services under the Department of Public Health is different than the Office of Emergency Management Services (the latter not being the appropriate department to surrender a PSA to) his voluminous motion on Friday March 17, 2017 did not really provide two options. We do understand that through his request for a written letter of intent he would like to have the MVFD solve this issue for him.

Looking further back to the Board of Selectman meeting on March 15, 2017 we take great comfort in Selectman Dorsett-Mathews statement that "I'm not disagreeing that that's when it said the payment was due" in response to the MVFD's explanation that the final payment under the Settlement Agreement was due January 2016. Although First Selectman Weik is not in agreement we would like to follow the advice of Selectman Dorsett-Matthews and "we can argue about that and we can move forward as well, while we are arguing about it. It's not mutually exclusive."

In so much as this body has reaffirmed its decision to not begin discussions on further transfers of revenue from billing for ambulance services to the Town of Morris until such time as the Town of Morris has assured the MVFD that all obligations under the expired Settlement Agreement have been met we can still propose a plan that does not compromise this decision. This plan has multiple steps each with actions to be taken by certain parties, deadlines for these actions and consequences if the deadline is not met. Step 1 has already been implemented by the actions taken by the MVFD on March 17, 2017, however, we outline it here in its entirety:

Step 1 Stopgap measure to ensure 24/7 coverage of EMS through April 30, 2017.

- Guaranty Vintech services through April 30, 2017 (Already done by MVFD).
- The Boards of Finance and Selectmen take whatever steps necessary to release taxpayer funds from Contingency to be used as originally intended when levied (for Vintech). If not completed by April 30, 2017 the MVFD surrenders the PSA to OEMS and the Town of Morris can submit to the discretion of OEMS.
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Step 2 Longer term measure to ensure 24/7 coverage of EMS through June 30, 2017.

- Use aforementioned taxpayer funds to pay Vintech for services as needed.
- Reach an agreement between the Town of Morris and the MVFD stipulating what the MVFD provides to the Town of Morris and what the Town of Morris will provide to enable the MVFD. Anticipate that this will be an all-encompassing agreement defining all foreseeable contingencies in great detail so as to avoid future discrepancies. Part of this agreement must state that any contract entered into for the benefit of the town by the MVFD will be guaranteed by the town and adequate funds will be allocated.
- If not completed by June 30, 2017 the MVFD surrenders the PSA to OEMS and the Town of Morris can submit to the discretion of OEMS.

Step 3 Future plan for revenue from ambulance billing.

- MVFD receives notice from Town of Morris that all obligations under Settlement Agreement have been satisfied, determination to be made freely or subsequent to litigation by Town of Morris.

- Reach agreement as to continuation of billing, use of funds, disbursements and allocations.
- No defined time limit to accomplish since many third parties may be involved.

Motion seconded by A. LeCuyer. Discussion. V. Aiello abstained. Motion carried.

New Business

Beach & Rec asked us to sponsor another concert this year. Discussion. Motion made not to sponsor concert due to lack of funds made by K. DeRoehn. Seconded A. LeCuyer. Motion carried unanimously.

Ipad discussion. Tablet charts is now live. Mobile version is run off of ipad. Discussion. Will review whether or not we want to purchase sometime in April.

Motion to adjourn made by K. Shemms. Motion seconded by M. Silver. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.