

# UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

WATERBURY FIRE STATION

STUDY GROUP #1

MINUTES OF MEETING – 5/1/09

Attendees: Study Committee: Rebecca Ellis, Kathleen Daye, Chuck Kletecka, Dave Luce; Fire Dept.: Gary Dillon, Dave Jennison; Town Engineer: Alec Tuscany

1. Purpose of meeting: To discuss fire department operations so as to clarify overall situation for the study committee.
2. Gary and Dave J. explained how the department operates now that the two departments have merged. Basically the merger means that response to all fire calls are met by turnout from both stations due to the fact that the firemen are located in many different parts of the town (during the day) and must respond to whichever station they are closest to at the time of the call. However, if, for example, sufficient firemen respond first to the village station and can man an effective response (as determined by the senior officer present at the scene), those who responded to the center station may stand by until either told they are needed or advised to stand down. This has resulted in more responses from the center station since before merger, however the total call volume for the merged department remains at approx. 290/year.
3. Usage of the various pieces of apparatus was explained. The engine/pumper, the most common vehicle, is also the most adaptable due to the fact that it carries a supply of hoses, its own water supply and pumps for pumping from either its own tank and/or from either a tanker or hydrant. In addition it carries a variety of equipment most commonly used to fight fire and transports a full crew of firemen. It comes in both Class A (750gpm) version and smaller unit, sometimes called a mini-pumper. Tankers merely transport water but do not pump. Other essential pieces include the tower truck, brush trucks, utility pick-up, and boat and trailer. The Seth Warner is the antique fire engine belovedly restored and maintained by the department.
4. Alec explained the use of data measurements by the previous study committee. In the absence of any better measures, the use of the ratio of # of apparatus per # of population was used as a gauge to determine the adequacy of the equipment complement of the department when compared to neighboring communities. Also mentioned was the factor of geographic limitations when looking at the number of stations and the positioning of equipment in the town. The village is on the southern part of the town and a village station is beyond the 5 mile ISO limits from parts of the town and, therefore, would adversely impact insurance rates for some properties.

5. The issue of revenue sources was discussed. Waterbury receives revenue from Duxbury and Moretown for the provision of fire services. In the future, Rebecca advised the contracts could be set up to reflect the fact that since Waterbury provides both facility and equipment for fire protection, those towns should pay a reasonable share of Waterbury's increased debt expense related to the construction of new fire stations. Also discussed was the proposal to house some equipment belonging to the private non-profit Waterbury Ambulance Service Inc., Backcountry Rescue Team (a pick-up and snowmobile and trailer) at the center station. Obviously, these pieces add to the overall count of fire department needs and somewhat skews the number, as well as adding to the overall space needs, and therefore the overall construction cost at the center station.
  
6. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dave J. escorted Dave L. and Kathleen on a tour of both existing stations as well as the sheds at the rear of the village station where the boat, trailer and Seth Warner are stored. The floor settlement at the village station and overall building conditions of both stations were noted. Kathleen and Dave L. think a field trip to some other stations may be in order.
  
7. NOTES/ADDITIONS OF OTHER STUDY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: (supplements what I may have forgotten and/or misinterpreted. Please add any thoughts you have and circulate to study committee):

Submitted: Dave Luce, Acting Secretary