

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact

Meeting Minutes June 21, 2024

Chief Jim Morse Presiding

Roll call Attendance Towns: 15 Members: 21 Guests: 2

Call to Order 1900 with the Pledge and - Welcome by Host Chief Bill MacDuffie

Presentation by guests from Eversource Mary Kate Daley and online presentation by Pete. They reviewed storm preparation and response and the restoration procedures. He also reviewed how to enter power line information on the web page. Chief Gilbert reminded members to update the critical infrastructure list to include the radio towers.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dept. Chief Newbery

- Motion to dispense with the reading of the May minutes. Motion and second to accept the minutes as posted and distributed. Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report –

- Motion and second to accept the report as posted and distributed. Motion passed.

Chief Gilbert discussed the need for the Compact to have a credit card. Currently, he only has a debit card. He has discussed this with Treasurer Yale and agreed that a credit card would be safer than the current debit card.

Motion and a Second to phase out the use of debit card and transition to credit card for purchasing.

Motion Passed

Training Committee- Dept. Newbery

- Reminder of the NVFC Hazmat Grant funded class scheduled for July 12 and 13 Friday and Saturday. No cost and lunch included. The class will be at the Compact office on Triangle Park Dr. Concord. Reviewed the three-day Propane class that was completed earlier this month. Reviewed some of the new equipment that the Hazmat team purchased to handle these emergencies.

Hazmat Report

- Dept. Newbery reported on the latest activity and training. Two responses to Loudon for propane incidents.

Fire Marshal's Report – Marshal Toomey

- Reported on recent activity –The 2021 edition of the Fire and Building codes have both passed – waiting on the governor's signature. The EV bill went to interim study. This legislation may be addressed at a national level. Still pending the Study Commission on EV and lithium battery issues. Discussion on the proposed new OSHA Fire Brigade Standard. The NVFC site is a good resource for this information. Concerns about the potential cost of full implementation. The Standard should have a minimal impact on NH municipal departments. To date, there have been 11 residential fire fatalities in the state. Common theme – lack of smoke detection. Fireworks training class on 6/24 at DMV building. A new vendor was secured for the foam take-back program and awaiting final approval from the governor and council. Kidder donation of smoke alarms. FMO developing a distribution program.

NHFST & EMS Report –

- **No report**

NHIAC Report – James Heinz

- **No report**

WEBSITE – Gary Sleeper

- Normal website activity – 277 unique visits

Concord Hospital Report –

No representative. No report

Dispatch Report – Jen Beets

- Work continues on the Web CAD public-facing monitor. No narratives will be visible - only times and addresses. Looking at a generic department log-in. You will receive a new password from Jen.

Old Business

- Radio Project – Chief Gilbert - The committee did make some progress with examining the use of ARPA funds.

A Motion with a Second was made to apply for and accept any funding sources that become available to fund the proposed radio project.

The motion passed unanimously.

The committee does have a plan to phase in the project if necessary. ARPA funds must be committed by December 2024 and expended by December 2025.

- Plausawa tower project – still waiting for the contractor to complete installation to the new tower. The Generator issue is still not resolved.
Craney tower – radios still must be moved over to new tower. The radio budget line may be overspent in this budget.
- Allentown FD Ambulance. The transition to full ambulance service is on track for July 1st. Tri-Town Ambulance's name changed to Pembroke Ambulance at the same time.

- Chief Gilbert – reported on the results of a meeting with several SW Mutual Aid towns that are interested in joining the Compact. He had an additional meeting with towns to the north that are exploring dispatch options. No action was taken.
- NASCAR Loudon event in June- Both the race event and the camping appear to be a sell-out. Some new traffic changes on Rt 106 after the race- southbound only.

New Business

No July or August meetings.

Next meeting – Location Hooksett, Legends Drive - September 19, 2024

Motion and a second to adjourn at 20:32