

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact

September 19, 2024 – Compact office 25 Triangle Park Dr. Concord

Chief Jim Morse Presiding

Roll call Attendance Towns: 21 Members: 32 Guests: 2

Call to Order 1900 - Welcome by Host Chief John Chisholm

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dept. Chief Newbery

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

Treasurer's Report – Chief Yale

- Motion to accept the report as posted and distributed.
- Motion Passed

Training Committee- Dept. Newbery

- Reported on the foam eductor and foam delivered to all towns this year. Completed classroom training with Canterbury with a practical session on pumping the eductor. We have some funds remaining in the foam Grant and hope to work with Henniker to have additional foam and foam appliances at that location for the West side. Also, we will purchase some final items for the trailer.

HazMat Report Capt. Costello

- Reviewed Team responses for the prior months – Most involved propane leaks that required a team response and some phone consults

Fire Marshal's Report – Marshall Toomey

- No report

NHFST & EMS Report –

No representative – no report

NHIAC Report – Jim Heinz

Updated information on recent cyber-attacks. Chief Blanchette discussed a recent email he received demanding money in Bitcoin. Jim reported on current threats and suspected upcoming issues.

WEBSITE – Gary Sleeper

Normal visitor activity to the site during the summer.

Concord Hospital Report –

No representative. No report

Dispatch Report – Jen Beets

- Paul Steele has been hired to fill the vacant dispatcher position. He brings 19 + years of experience with skills in dispatching, CAD, and radio technology. Jen asked that towns keep the information in IAR updated especially with on-duty paramedics and RSI skills. Web CAD has been up and running for the past two months. Log-in credentials were sent out to members. Some members are experiencing problems with Crew Force. You may have to close out and get new login credentials from Jen.

Old Business

Plausawa Tower – The new 180-foot tower is up, and our equipment is installed. We do have generator backup at the site.

Craney Hill Tower- All the radio equipment has been moved from the old lookout tower to the new Town-owned tower.

Belknap Tower link – Keith explained the history of how we developed a relationship with Lakes Region to share a link on the Belknap tower. Unfortunately, Lakes decided to abandon the link while our Plausawa site was being rebuilt after the storm damage. They did not notify us that it was shut off and this led to scheduling delays in getting the Craney & Plausawa sites up and running. Keith explained that he would like to end this agreement as the link has less value to the system now with the cloud-based CAD. There were several different draft motions with discussions before a final motion was crafted and a full body roll call vote.

Motion and second - To end the agreement with Lakes on the Belknap to Kearsarge microwave link. Roll call vote with all towns present voting in the affirmative. Motion Passed.

Radio Project – The Compact has been awarded 1.25 million in ARPA funds for the radio upgrade project. Funds must be committed by December 30, 2024, and expended by the end of 2026. The radio committee will be busy deciding how best to proceed with partial funding of the overall project. Keith will be attending a meeting on Sept 20 to obtain more information. Keith has met with Cheshire County and Don Bliss to understand the work that they have done to secure funding for SW Mutual Aid. Police dispatch radio systems currently have a higher priority on the grant approval list. Political support will be needed to get Fire Dispatch systems higher approval. Cheshire County is trying to obtain Last Mile – federal grant funds to help fund the project.

New Business

Capital Area compact budget presentation 2025. Dispatch supervisor Jen Beetz reviewed the Concord dispatch expenses from the calendar year 2023. Chief Gilbert explained how the budget is prepared and the system of expenses. The chief went through the budget line for line on a large screen for all to view. He then reviewed the town portion of the budget and the cost to towns. Some were higher due to town re-evaluations. Overall, the budget was up 7.33%

Motion and second to accept the budget as presented. Roll call vote all towns voted in the affirmative – Motion passes.

Incident Review - Hillsboro Technical Rescue at Camp Wediko in Windsor on September 15, 2024. PowerPoint presentation with photos of the rescue of a child trapped between two boulders at the camp. Chief Stafford and other members that were present explained the challenges members faced and the resources that were needed to complete a successful rescue.

Next meeting –Location – Boscawen, October 17, 2024

Motion and a second to adjourn at 20:55