

Minutes 25 June 2018

Town of Groton

Fire Dept Task Force Study Committee

Called to order 5:55PM

Attendees:

Peter Myette

John Kane

Ryan Monat

An He Foley (teleconference)

Jenifer Evans

Chief Steele McCurdy

Mark Haddad

Old Business

None – initial meeting of the task force.

New Business

Reviewed the charter.

- The committee is to study the benefit of adding 4 full-time career firefighters.
- The August date in the original charter is not a hard date. The committee will take as long as necessary.

Background information provided by Chief McCurdy:

- The goal is to maintain a hybrid or strong call department.
- He is working to grow both the full-time and call force.
 - There have been 2 recruitment drives for call: one mailer last August and a 2nd night “last week”
- Groton Fire is currently ~30 call, ~7 full-time employees.
 - 5 shift firefighters: Captain, 2 Asst Capt, 2 Lieutenant
 - 1 Chief
 - 1 Administrative Asst.
- Staffing currently covers 12 hours a day. An additional 4 full-time makes it 24 hour coverage.
- Current response info: avg 12 minutes to get to the station. Squannacook on far side of town is ~15 minutes from the station. It can be 25 minutes from “call” to arrival on scene.

Other discussion and info exchanged amongst members:

- Different communities have different drivers for staffing, e.g., response time, number of buildings, numbers of calls, age of clientele, etc. For example, Groton does include Seven Hills Foundation, and will have the Indian Hill Music Center.
- Regionalization with Dunstable is no longer an option due to Dunstable teaming with Tyngsboro(?). In general, regionalization is not common in the states of Massachusetts and New York.
- Littleton was like Groton, a primarily call department staffed 6A-6P. 5 years ago Littleton added personnel to have 2 career people on staff 24 hours/ay. Then later added 2 more people to each shift, 24 hours/day.

Votes taken:

- Peter Myette elected Chairman
- An He Foley elected Vice Chairman
- Jenifer Evans elected Clerk

Information request:

- *John Kane requested the 10-year response rate and frequency of response requests*

Before the next meeting, the committee should

- Read the fire department audit report
 - It includes an overview of the strategic plan, training programs, staffing levels, incentives for on-call recruiting.
- Read the Town of Groton sustainability report (Operational Assessment of Town Departments.)
- Memo from Chief McCurdy in Town Manager's page for the FY19 Proposed Operating Budget. This request was made by Chief McCurdy during budget discussions, but before the audit report was finished.

Next meeting: 9 July

Adjourned at 6:45 PM

Jenifer Evans