

## **Minutes 13 August 2018**

Town of Groton

Joint meeting of Fire Dept Task Force Study Committee

### **Called to order 6:00PM**

#### **Attendees:**

Peter Myette (PM)

John Kane (JK)

An Hee Foley (AHF)

Jenifer Evans (JBE)

Chief McCurdy

### **Old Business**

Review of previous joint meeting.

PM: It's not clear we were a key element. Staffing needs were clearly communicated to the townspeople.

JK: He's questioning the timeline. Were we being pushed to jump to a conclusion or "agree"?

AHF: While there is a short-term need, that needs to be addressed, that's not the focus of the committee.

McCurdy: shared history of how the joint meeting happened.

### **New Business**

JBE: Regardless, call recruiting will be an issue. How does the need for call fit into the task committee's charge? Do we include as a recommendation?

JK: Are SAFER grants available?

McCurdy: They are mostly incentives, e.g., to help with recruitment and retention. Westford received a grant for hiring. Groton did not qualify for certain SAFER grants due to the town's median family income.

PM: On community outreach, he believes face-to-face is better than surveys.

Resident: Need to do publicity: Groton Herald, town meeting, seniors.

How has Groton population changed over time? The risk will never be zero, but what is an acceptable level? It seems the new population may be less tolerant of risk, or less informed about the fire department.

There is an education piece to risk reduction. Currently, the fire departments educational outreach focuses on seniors and youth. The focus is installing fire detectors, etc, for seniors. Expanded youth education to include electric safety, fire safety, etc.

McCurdy: will contact newswoman Connie Sartini to write an article about the fire department to educate the townspeople. She will write something that can also be shared on social media in addition to the Groton Herald.

Enterprise accounts – some towns use enterprise accounts for ambulance fees and similar. The result is that state budget numbers may not be apples-to-apples. Some departments get monies through enterprise accounts rather than the operating budget.

The committee has requested “actuals” and “budgets” for the town, fire, police, and other public safety from Mark Haddad via Dawn Dunbar.

Action items assigned:

8/13/2018 Community outreach publicity plan – Groton Herald? Town meeting? Seniors?

8/13/2018 Article by Connie Sartini (SM)

8/13/2018 Social media outreach plan? (RJM)

8/13/2018 Actuals vs Budgets for town, fire, police, other public safety (MH)

Next meeting: 20 August.

Adjourned at 7:26 PM

Jenifer Evans