

Minutes 15 Oct 2018

Town of Groton

Joint meeting of Fire Dept Task Force Study Committee

Called to order 6:04PM

Attendees:

Peter Myette (PM)

John Kane (JK)

An Hee Foley (AHF)

Jenifer Evans (JBE)

Ryan Monat (RJM)

Steele McCurdy (SM)

Old Business

Approved minutes from 9/10 and 9/17.

New Business

Reviewed data and slides generated by Jenifer Evans (attached)

The “proposed” hours have changed from having station staffed with 5 members, Mon-Fri, 8:00AM-4:00PM to having 5 members, Tues, Wed, Thurs (inspection days), 8:00AM-4:00PM, and 4 members Fri-Mon. Previous analysis had shown that the emergency response load is uniform through all 7 days, so this shift in the proposed recognizes that fact.

PM noted the data doesn’t show how many people are responding to each all. Chief McCurdy says the number of responders has been going down over time.

AHF noted the EMS response time in 2017 is up for unstaffed hours. EMS time for staffed hours is also up.

Response times for fire and all calls on average are all slightly down, for both staffed and unstaffed hours.

Chief McCurdy provided FinCom data on staffing levels. The committee would like a copy.

Question Resident: Does a firefighter have to report to the station first, or can the firefighter report directly to the fire. Answer (SM): To the station to get gear. There are risks associated with used equipment being stored in a residence due to exposure to toxic fumes. Additionally, UV light degrades the gear. Gear is stored in a special room at the fire station.

Question (JBE): When a firefighter leaves the department, what happens to the gear? Answer (SM): IT is retained by Groton Fire Department. It may be handed down, but usually not due to fit issues.

Question (JBE): What is the vision on future staffing, given the town meeting vote to fund two more firefighters? Answer (SM): The vision remains the same as the original plan – adding 4 total to cover the house 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The 2 positions just added only added an additional 2 hours a day of coverage at the level of just one person in the house. Adding 2 more positions to go to 4 total and the original plan would require stepping back from the newly proposed 5 person staffing to the previous 4 person staffing from 8AM – 4PM. That may not be well-received by the town or by the firefighters.

Next meeting: 22 Oct. Will review Connie Sartini draft.

Adjourned at 7:07 PM

Jenifer Evans

Attachment: Evans slides GFD_Call_Response_DataSummary and GFD_AlternateStaffing