

Ad Hoc Fire Protection Vehicle Assessment Meeting

August 21, 2013

6:30 PM

Chelsea Town Office

**Minutes:**

**1. Call to order:**

Members: Shawn Ramage, Ted Gardner, Skip Skehan, Craig Hitchings, Rick Danforth.

Also in attendance were Joe Mills, Philip Alexander and Judy Williams

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

**2. Scheduled items:**

**A. Replacement of Fire Protection Vehicles:**

**a. Determine Status of Current Inventory**

Shawn provided the committee with a handout that reviewed the history of the department. He focused on the status of the vehicles, mentioning the 1978 GMC Tanker is out of service. This is a loss of 2000 gallons of water. The 1988 7600A Kenworth truck which holds 4000 gallons has developed a leak at the bottom of the truck. The exact cause and availability of service is an unknown.

**b. Availability of Fire Protection Vehicles**

The possibility of a "home made" or "locally made" vehicle is remote due to liability concerns. Used vehicles are rare and when available it would be necessary to act quickly. There are concerns about the lack of a warranty on a used vehicle purchased from another Fire Department. New vehicles are always available but there would be a delay for customization. Shawn reviewed the various dealers, websites and other fire departments he has contacted.

**c. Financial Impact**

There is \$44K in the Truck Reserve Account and \$26K in the Building Reserve Account which a portion could be moved to the Truck Reserve Account by a special town meeting. The interest on a lease purchase/loan would be approximately 3%. Grants are available but it would approximately 18 months before we could expect any response. The Fire Department does receive donations but not in the amount needed to offset

the cost of a used or new truck. Fund raising programs similar to what surrounding towns do (i.e. dunk tanks or road blocks) do not seem feasible at this time.

**d. Liability and Risk Assessment**

Based on some of the documents provided by Shawn, liability and risk assessment are key issues. Underwriting companies are looking more at vehicles that are NFPA compliant.

**B. Future Planning:**

a. Short term goals

Determine the extent of the leak on the 1988 7600A tanker and condition of the frame. Based on what is found make a recommendation at the next ad hoc meeting.

b. Long term goals

Downsize the fleet and have trucks available with more diversity

**C. Action Items:**

a. Committee will meet at the Hallowell Road station to visually inspect the

1988 7600 A. This meeting will take place on 08/29 at 6:30

b. Shawn will continue to pursue a risk assessment ruling from MMA

c. Set next meeting

**3. Other Business:**

None

Notes: Miscellaneous comments

a. Repair of existing tanker may be impractical, costly or add weight

b. Question the possibility of a poly-tank to address weight issues

c. The Town of Chelsea has a good ISO rating which some insurance companies use to determine home owner insurance rates

d. Togus Fire Dept may have a tanker available, but the time line and procedure for transfer of the vehicle to Chelsea is unknown

**4. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Submitted by,

Rick Danforth