



MONTHLY TOWN FIRE MEETING

June 27, 2022



Meeting called to order by Chief Crawford at 18:15.

Minutes from April were read and approved. May minutes were not available for the meeting.

Annual Mandatory Processes

- N/A

Equipment

- Current gas detection meters are not sufficient, highly expensive and complicated to use. There are other options for less expensive 2 year disposable gas detectors. Chief Crawford will check on prices.

Infrastructure Maintenance

- Station 2 need repair on door. Steve Thorne will take care of it.
- Need a contract for fuel and heating oil. Unable to complete contract with C. N. Brown. The selectmen will work on a contracted supplier.
- Woods mill stand pipe has been moved back 50'.
- Reviewed final report on fire protection study.
 - Three building options included in the report. All three options recommended a new station. Addendum A includes excerpt of text for the three options.
 - Based on the experience of the veteran firefighters the most reasonable and pragmatic recommendation would be to pursue Option 1. There was broad support that with a central fire station there would need to be a more regional approach to response beyond just a mutual aide agreement. Even with a larger more modern station management of one facility would consolidate capital improvement and maintenance to one building instead of three. A modern fire station could also be an attraction for more and younger members of the fire department. It will not be too many years before having permanent EMS and Fire personal on site. Pass through bays would alleviate the safety risk currently experienced from trucks backing into Station 1 and 3 on 113.
 - Discussion on apparatus priorities 1 - 3. Addendum B includes excerpt of text for the three priorities. In general there was agreement with the spirit of the three priorities. However, there was some concern of replacing squad three with something less adequate.

Record management

- Starting in July 2022 we will now be tracking line item purchases against the budget categories. This will help us as we strive to be good stewards of resources and personal used for Fire Protection and Safety.

Training

- N/A

Personnel

- A plaque was presented to Steve Sanders in honor of his completion of Fire Fighter I & II completion.

Special Events

- Parade event coordination will take place informally.

Operations (calls, SOPs, etc.)

- Discussion on call with wires on road. There was a challenge with through traffic.
- Discussion on ATV accident. Overall response and operation went well.
- Station 3 domestic water pump and expansion tank might need to be replaced.

Motion to adjourn 20:16, Next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd, Location Baldwin Community Center at 18:30

Addendum A

Option 1 - The town would build one new fire station that would serve the entire community. This venture would eventually have the three existing stations shuttered and all resources, personnel and operations transferred to a new municipally owned and operated fire station, which would be a first for the town of Baldwin. The general location would be somewhere between the current East and West Baldwin fire stations along Pequawket Trail in an effort to capitalize on those fire fighters who are currently assigned each of those stations, and the quick and easy access afforded this general location.

Option 2 - The town would construct a centralized fire station and retain the North Baldwin station. This recommendation would have a new facility built somewhere along Route #113 that would allow for the merging of both personnel and capital assets from the East and West Baldwin fire stations. Although the North Baldwin fire station is outdated and lacks the features found in new facilities, the town may want to continue operating a single engine from here. This consideration would in effect act as a placeholder as the town pares the number of fire stations and builds one new one.

Option 3 - The town would construct two new buildings and close all three current fire stations. A new station would be built somewhere within the West Baldwin precinct along Route #113 in the vicinity of the Route #5 intersection. A second station would be constructed in the East Baldwin district along Route #11/107 towards the Sand Pond Road intersection. One of the two new buildings would be designed as the central station, while the other as a substation. This option would essentially combine the East and North Baldwin stations into one new facility, while a replacement for the west would be built on a new repositioned site.

Addendum B

Priority #1 Dispose of Forestry #1 The town of Baldwin has two similar government surplus trucks that were converted for forest fire fighting purposes. There is however, glaring differences. Forestry #1 is a four-wheel drive truck that carries 300 gallons of water whereas Forestry #2 is a six wheel drive unit and carries in excess of 1,000 gallons. The town should hand-off the less purposeful truck to another community, dispose of it in whatever manner the town chooses, or follow any compulsory guidelines that were accepted when the town took ownership of the vehicles.

Priority #2 Remove Squad #3 from service To stay in sync with a phased approach of cycling out the oldest fire truck, Squad #3, after 31 years of service life would be next in-line. Squad #3 is in actuality a pumper although the department reclassified it as a squad when it was relegated to a different function. The truck does carry the department's secondary set extrication tools, traffic control signage, and two-Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Some of the functions associated with this vehicle should be transferred to Engine #4, the pumper housed alongside Squad #3 at West Baldwin. Engine #4 has only two SCBA and according to ISO and NFPA, a fully compliant engine company should have a minimum of four. The set of extrication equipment should also be transferred if there is sufficient compartment space. As for off-road duties associated with wildland fire fighting, the department's forestry apparatus should be assigned those types of incidents.

Priority #3 Replace Squad #3 and Forestry #1 with one new multifunctional unit. In place of these two apparatus, the town should consider acquiring a smaller more versatile multifunctional vehicle that can achieve many of the functions both the squad and Forestry #1 were assigned. The recommendation is to procure a heavy-duty fourwheel drive, standard size pick-up truck chassis with a utility style body. The town would also purchase a wildland fire fighting skid-unit. These skid-unit modules can carry as much as 300 gallons of water and can be removed and stored off-season. This "utility" truck would also carry some the department's traffic control signage, and other equipment that may not be included in any of the pumper's inventory.