

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Fire Dept. Retention and Recruitment Study Committee
July 17, 2008

The Retention and Recruitment Study Committee met at 7:00 P.M. in the Canton Community Center.

Members present: Rich Hutchings, Bill Volovski, Gerry Holland, Board of Finance member Dick Ohanesian, Board of Selectmen Member, Shirley Krompegal.

Heath Doran was present as an interested member of the Fire Dept.

There were only three members of the Committee present, therefore there was not a quorum. Harold Freytag had said that he would be late and Linda Scarchuk was on a medical call.

It was decided to discuss the issues of the Fire and Ems Depts.

Heath Doran spoke about issues that he and other officers had with a report within the Board of Selectmen's minutes of the meeting held on July 2, 2008. He did not feel that a report should have been given to the Board of Selectmen of things that were said during a non-meeting of the committee and would like a retraction and an apology.

Harold Freytag arrived at 7:30. We now have a quorum.

Rich Hutchings mentioned that Mr. Barlow has not attended a meeting and said that it was his committee.

Discussion followed on ways to retain our volunteers.

Heath Doran mentioned pay per call. Shirley asked what rate other Towns payed their fire fighters. He said it ranged from \$5.50 to \$12.00. Another incentive could be a gas card as gas is so expensive at this time. It should not cost people to volunteer. Another way would be a tax abatement on a part of the volunteers property. However the younger members may not own any property.

Bill Volovski suggested that the pension be reevaluated. \$400.00 is not very much.

Heath Doran said that the members should be recognized, given incentives ie shirts, jackets, boots.

A mentoring program was mentioned - pair an established member with a new recruit and help with orientation, training, radio use etc.

The election of a Chairman and a Secretary was listed on this meetings agenda.

Bill Volovski volunteered to Chair the Committee. No one volunteered to be Secretary.

Rich Hutchings called Linda Scarchuk and asked if she would like to be secretary. She said yes. They both were unanimously approved.

Bill Volovski said that since he was now chairman he would take all ideas to the membership and get their opinion as to what they would like as incentives.

Voted to adjourn,