



Select Board

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Select Board Meeting Minutes

Joint Meeting with Richmond Selectmen

September 14, 2020

21 State Line Road, Town Hall

Open Meeting

Quorum present: Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Member, Eric Shimelonis, Select Board Member, Marie Ryan, Town Administrator

Alan Hanson, Richmond Selectmen Chair, Neal Pilson Selectmen and Roger Manzolini (via phone) Selectmen and Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator of Richmond

Also present:

Steve Traver, Acting Fire Chief

Roger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. He said that the agenda for this meeting was to hear a proposal from Chief Traver about the next steps in his role as interim Chief of the West Stockbridge Fire Department.

Chief Traver proposed a one year trial of a combined Richmond and West Stockbridge Fire Department with him as the Chief of the two departments. Each department would have its own leader. Budgets, equipment and facilities would remain independent. Both departments would train together and both would be notified when a call comes in, thereby increasing the number of available resources that can respond to incidents in either town.

Alan Hanson asked if this would be a burden for Steve to be working for both towns. Steve responded there would be no real change in the workload since both towns already assist each other on calls.

Neal Pilson asked about the impact of the number of calls that firefighters would be responding to under this arrangement, pointing out that Richmond has almost double the calls of West Stockbridge. Steve and Danielle explained that both departments already support each other so the only change would be the increase in manpower because the both towns would be toned for every call.

Eric said that this agreement would make both departments stronger because there will be the opportunity for personnel to work together more often and to gain experience and skills on more calls, which will help to build teamwork and proficiency. He feels this would be extremely beneficial to both towns.

Neal asked how the Richmond members were paid. Steve told him that Richmond firefighters get a stipend for responding to incidents and West Stockbridge firefighters get a stipend for attending training sessions, not for responding to incidents. Neal suggested that the compensation for firefighters in both towns should be on the same basis.

Roger Manzolini asked who would be in charge if Steve wasn't available to oversee operations. Steve explained he would put together a plan for rotation for his 2nd in command in each town. He explained that when it comes to a scene, the first person who arrives becomes the person in charge. Roger said he was asking about who would make the decision to keep one department in place until needed if both towns get called to respond to an incident. Steve said that the details of that process will get worked out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the two towns and will be documented in the SOGs (Standard Operating Guidelines).

Roger Manzolini made a motion to support the proposal of sharing the Fire Chief and combining the Departments on a 1-year trial and authorized Danielle to work with Marie to create a Memorandum of Understanding for the Boards to sign. Neal seconded and all were in favor.

Roger Kavanagh made a motion to support the proposal of sharing the Fire Chief and combining the Departments on a 1-year trial and authorized Marie to work with Danielle to create a Memorandum of Understanding for the Boards to sign. Kathleen seconded and all were in favor.

Roger made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marie U. Ryan
Town Administrator