

2016 Hallowell Fire Services Committee

DRAFT Minutes: February 9, 2016 5:15 p.m. Hallowell City Hall

Members: Bob Duplessie, Chair; Dawn Gallagher, Dan Davis, Mark Sullivan, Mike Grant, Sophie Gabrion, Sandy Stubbs, Stefan Pakulski

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Members Present: Bob Duplessie, Dawn Gallagher, Dan Davis, Sandy Stubbs, Stefan Pakulski, Sophie Gabrion

2016 Hallowell Fire Services Committee Mission Statement

To provide input and make recommendations that the City Council and citizens of Hallowell may use to establish municipal policies, including codes and ordinance, to retain and direct municipal personnel and to make public investments in training, equipment and buildings needed to deliver essential fire protection services most cost effectively. Our highest priorities are to prevent fires and other threats to public safety and to safeguard the lives and the public safety of Hallowell citizens and visitors to our viceHallowell taxpayers. Toward these goals we will also explore opportunities for contracting with other communities to provide selected fire services to Hallowell or deliver services jointly with Hallowell.

Meeting Minutes:

The Committee approved the minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting.

1. Steven's School Fire Protection Issue

The Committee learned and decided to refer to the City Council, that the State has shut off water sprinkler systems and hydrants. At the City Council meeting, it was agreed that Stefan would send a letter to the State requesting the State plow the roads and concern that the sprinklers and hydrants were turned off. Stefan has since heard from the State that they will try to do a better job plowing, but probably would not put the sprinklers and hydrants back on. The Committee agreed that its report would note this concern.

2. Fire Service Calls

Discussion on service calls 2012, 2013 and 2014. Dawn provided the following summary based on the reports provided by Mike:

Hallowell Fire Department Service Calls 2012-2014

Calls by Type	2012-14	average	% of total
false alarms	239	80	
vehicle response	84	28	
service codes	20	6.6	
Non-Fire Responses	343	114.6	87.5%
structure fire	24	8	
other fire/smoke	17	5.6	
vegetation fire	8	2.6	
Fire Related Responses	49	16.2	12.5%
Totals	392	130.8	

Committee agreed that the number of actual fire calls is very small. Also, false alarms are a large concern and there needs to be an education outreach and perhaps fees for repetitive false alarms.

- Action: Bob will provide a copy of Portland’s ordinance and fees for repeat false alarms.

Sandy: Does the police department respond first to every call and then contact the fire department? (Action: Ask Mike to respond)

Committee wants information on the locations, dates and time of day, response time, and number of HFD firefighters responding.

- Action: Agreed to ask Mike to provide time of day, place, and number of responders for fire calls.

3. TIF

Stefan led discussion on TIF basics. They are individual Agreements (Credit enhancement agreement) for a specific percentage for a specified period. (Woodlands 50%; Ice arena 100% 10 years) Hallowell’s current TIF districts include Downtown (Water and Second Streets, from the cemetery to City Works); and the Steven’s School Complex. If the City wants to increase TIF properties Council votes to do it and then it must be approved by the State. With respect to fire services, eligible projects would be City investments within the TIF district, including acquisition of lots or buildings within the TIF district for City purposes, and construction of municipal buildings.

4. Bonding Capacity

The Committee asked to get, just for information, bond debt services which Stefan provided:

FY	Payment
7/16- 6/17	~\$333,250
7/17- 6/18	~\$328,000
7/18- 6/19	~\$182,000
By 2021	\$46,000

Currently, there are no new bonds. However, water street reconstruction, road bonds, and public works/public safety facility may be projects that the City may consider. This information is useful to understand other potential City priorities.

5. Grants Opportunity

- Sophie led discussions on grants. She indicated that national foundation grants are generally more successful and offered to help research grants. At Sandy's suggestion, Sophie will contact Carolyn Manson about Row House, and then Bob Stubbs and Earle Shuttleworth on other grants submitted.

6. Possible Fire Services Facility Locations

The Committee agreed that it include in its report potential sites for the City to consider based on information it had gathered. Suggestions include the top of the Steven's School (which may be eligible for TIF); the parcel on Central Street in front of the Elementary School; and the parcel that the City may own between Central and Winthrop Streets just west of 95. The Committee will include other sites as they are known.

7. Water Street Improvements

At the Committee's January 26th meeting, Sophie agreed to advise the highway committee that the replacement of the water main will have a positive impact on ISO ratings and improve fire service for downtown. Sophie reported that the next meeting is 2/22 and she'll convey that information.

8. Inventory in Fire House

Dawn reported that a highly reputable antique appraisal firm has been contacted to appraise the memorabilia (under City supervision) and offered Committee members the opportunity to be present. Sandy would like to participate. Sandy mentioned that an appraisal had been done about 25 years ago which could also assist in the upcoming appraisal. Stefan indicated that we have \$125,000 insurance for “contents” of building (personal protection gear and memorabilia?) excluding vehicles.

- Action: Stefan asked the MMA if the \$125,000 was for all contents or just the memorabilia; he plans to call MMA again tomorrow.

9. Review the most recent draft agreement between Augusta and Hallowell (Stefan)

Stefan: Has 11/20/2012 letter asking Bill Bridgeo for proposal for contract between Hallowell and Augusta for “fire services.” Bill B. responded he would have it to Mike S. in a month; cannot locate any additional documents.

- Action: Stefan will follow up with Bill B.

Meeting Adjourned 6:23 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 1st, at 5:15 at City Hall.

To-Do Tasks -- Fire Services Committee

Date of Request

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| 2/9 | ➤ Action: Bob will provide a copy of Portland’s ordinance and fees for repeat false alarms. |
| 2/9 | ➤ Action: Agreed to ask Mike for time of day, place, and number of responders for fire calls. |
| 2/9 | Sophie: Will contact Carolyn Manson about Row House, then Bob Stubbs and Earle Shuttleworth |
| 2/9 | ➤ Action: Stefan will check with MMA on coverage \$125,000 |
| 2/9 | ➤ Action: Stefan will follow up with Bill B. |