

## 2016 Hallowell Fire Services Committee

**DRAFT Minutes:** April 5, 2016 5:15 p.m. Hallowell City Hall

**Members:** Bob Duplessie, Chair; Dawn Gallagher, Dan Davis, Mark Sullivan, Mike Grant, Sophie Gabrion, Sandy Stubbs, Maureen Aucoin

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**Members Present:** Bob Duplessie, Dawn Gallagher, Dan Davis, Sandy Stubbs, Mike Grant

**Others Present:** Rick Seymour, Hallowell Fire Fighter

### **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. 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 March 1, 2016 meeting.

#### **1. Fire Service Calls and Reports**

At the Committee's suggestion, Mayor Walker agreed to add to the April 2016 City Council agenda, an item to refer the issue of how to best handle/try to reduce or educate the public on these issues to the City for its Public Safety (police/fire) committee to take action.

At the last meeting, Stefan advised the Committee that Mike indicated that the request to have information on the dates, times, locations, and number of firefighters responding for fire service may not be able to be provided electronically. (The Committee asked Stefan to follow up.)

At the April meeting, Mike and Rick indicated that the data in the reports that go to the State Fire Marshall's office include some of the data the Committee requested, but the elements are not in a database per se.

The Committee discussed and agreed to review the template of the reports and see what information is currently collected and then decide what information we would want in addition to the data currently being collected, mindful that collecting additional information must be balanced with resources. The committee would then consider having an excel or similar spreadsheet built.

There was a discussion about whether building a new fire station would result in more volunteers (on-call/paid) for the City (“build it and they will come”). The Committee suggested that it would be helpful to find other examples of where building a new building has worked to increase the number of fire fighters. The Committee also discussed that more education and community awareness to perhaps attract more people.

- Action: Sophie has the template and will send it to Dawn for distribution to the Committee for their review before the next Committee meeting.
- Action: The Committee will include in its final report, a suggestion that the City provide incentives for employers who allow their employees to leave for fire service calls.

## **2. Grants Opportunity**

Sophie found a couple of potential grants for repurposing old fire stations and municipalities who are looking at moving away from the traditional on call/paid fire services due to infrastructure and reduced numbers of volunteer fire fighters.

- Action: She is meeting with Sandy and Bob Stubbs this week to review grant opportunities and report back to the Committee.

## **3. Water Street Improvements and Water Mains**

Sophie reported that she conveyed to the Highway Committee that the Water Street improvements will enhance ISO standards. She also indicated that the Committee would benefit from having the appropriate stakeholders, such as Dennis Kinney, come to the meeting (Note: he was invited but is out of state.)

Bob summarized information from the reports that showed in 1989, out of 40 total points, we were at 28; and in 2002 we were at 31. Also, the fire department, out of 50 points, we were at 17.6 points. Mike indicated and the committee believes that improvements have been made to the fire department since the last ISO report.

Bob stated that he and Dennis met and reviewed water supply reports, and that the water flow at the last ISO review was adequate. Sophie indicated that Dennis said that quarterly (?) hydrant tests show water capacity is okay. The challenge may be for the future. New buildings

are added and the question is whether the existing buildings in that zone still have adequate water flows.

- Action: The Committee agreed to include in its report a suggestion that the City consider reviewing its codes and ordinances to determine whether renovations or new construction above certain levels should be required to have enhanced systems such as sprinklers. If so, the City could consider a “common code” that other municipalities have adopted. This would not be to deter construction; it would be to show we protect the community and protect ISO ratings and fire services.
- Action: The Committee agreed to include in its report, a suggestion that the City could provide incentives to commercial buildings or residential units with 3 or less units, to install sprinklers or other fire services protections, through no or low cost loans or TIF policies.
- Action: Bob will invite Dennis to future meetings to discuss water flows and related issues.

#### **4. Fire House Insurance**

Marcus Ballou who is the underwriter for MMA, is working on a rider for the more noteworthy artifacts for the 7/1/16 beginning fiscal year. To that end, we need to have appraisal for these items. In late March, Sandy took James Julia representative on a tour of the fire house. Mo and Mayor Walker were later contacted by the James Julia rep asking about sales. The Committee discussed and agreed to the action step below.

- Action: Mo will contact James Julia to determine how to best get insurance appraisals completed.

#### **5. Request to Meet from Gardiner**

No meeting took place and that is on hold.

#### **6. Discussions with Augusta about Providing Fire Services for Hallowell**

Mayor Walker met with the City Manager about regional efforts in general. The Mayor asked Bob to discuss joint efforts with the Augusta fire chief, who is going to talk with Bill B. and then get back to Bob.

In the KJ this week, Augusta stated that it plans to renovate the Hartford station which will enable it to hold the ladder truck. This means the ladder will be within 2 ½ miles from Hallowell. (It may be that they would then close the Western Avenue station.)

- Action: Bob will work to meet with Augusta officials to report back to the Committee.

#### **7. Other Action Items**

- **Action:** The Committee agreed that they should have an agenda before meetings and that the agenda be put up on website. Dawn agreed to do the agenda. Mo will post the meeting minutes and agendas.

### **Next Meeting**

The Agenda for the next meeting will be to continue mapping out the costs and to discuss the results of the Augusta meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50

Next meeting: TBD

**Action Items for Next Meeting and Responsible Parties:**

- Action: The Committee members before the next meeting should review the fire services report template to determine what information it would like to have reported on.
- Action: Sophie is meeting with Sandy and Bob Stubbs to review grant opportunities and report back to the Committee.
- Action: Bob will invite Dennis to future meetings to discuss water flows and related issues.
- Action: Mo will contact James Julia to determine how to best get insurance appraisals completed.
- Action: Bob will meet with Augusta officials to report back to the Committee, and Committee will discuss costs of fire services.

