

# DAYTON – LYMAN FIRE DEPT. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes for Meeting February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Meeting was called to order @ 18:30 hrs at the Lyman Town Hall Meeting Room

Present:

Town of Dayton

James Trask, Ed LeBlanc, Woody Brown, Paul Porier, John Gay

Town of Lyman

Norm Hutchins, Ron Stewart, George Sutton

Fire-Rescue

Michael Lord, Chad Johnston

Discussion was opened by chairman Sutton on choosing a name for the committee. The Dayton – Lyman Fire Dept. Advisory Committee was selected.

Discussion was opened about the context of the FD study that was completed in 2008. It was decided to use the surrounding towns that were somewhat comparable in population. The following towns were decided upon and the following members will do research on the budgets that each town currently provides for Fire & EMS service.

Alfred (Stewart); Waterboro (Porier); Limerick (Stewart); Buxton (Leblanc); Hollis (Leblanc)

Chairman Sutton spoke about the current budget monies that are appropriated for the FD and if we are to follow through with the FD plan of action, where it would put us. The FD will supply current numbers on revenues for the next meeting.

Chairman Sutton opened discussion about the fact that 94 members have joined the Department over the past 10 years, but they have only been able to retain 26. Is there a better way to retain them. Discussion was held and noted that this problem is a nation wide problem and not secluded to our community. The committee will make further decisions on how to better evaluate the Department's inability to retain a higher percentage of applicants.

Selectman Hutchins spoke about the fact the Falmouth, Maine has had troubles retaining members and they have recently been successful with the hiring of a new Fire Chief. Chairman Sutton and a FD rep will travel to Falmouth to investigate the changes that they have made.

Selectman Trask spoke about the importance of the annual banquet and the fact that it is pretty cheap money for what is given in return.

Discussion was held on the need for a building expansion and the FD will supply plans and budget numbers that were acquired for the next meeting. It was noted that the last payment was made on the building note this year.

After further discussion about the FD study, it was agreed to take the FD plan of action and prioritize the steps into a 5 year plan.

Discussion was held in regards to the need for a town manager or the possibility of a joint manager between the 2 towns. It was agreed that this issue, though extremely important, is probably work for another committee, much like ours.

Discussion was held on the current status of the FD being a private corporation and the with the growth needs that are going to take place in the future, that the need to change this arrangement is here. The committee spoke about the possibilities of transitioning the Department to a municipal Department of the town of Lyman. It was agreed that the selectman will each consult with their town attorney's for legality and to look at options for dealing with assets, contracts, etc. It was thought that Dayton would have to contract in for a minimum of probably 10 years to assure funding. It was then figured that this would have to be step 1 in the plan of action, followed by Step 2 being the hiring of future full and part time positions.

Discussion was held on when we go to hire the Fire Chief, are we going to hire someone or appoint Chief Carpenter. It was thought that a hiring process would be put in place that would certainly allow Chief Carpenter to be a strong candidate.

The next meeting will be February 25<sup>th</sup>, @ 18:30 at the Dayton Town Hall

Meeting adjourned 20:00 hrs.