

Fire Chief Study Committee

1/19/22

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Meeting began at 10 am

Present: Elaine Puleo, Kristen Burgess, Walter Tibbetts, April Stein (absent, Jim Walton)

Also present: Becky Torres, TA; Mark Foster

- Reviewed Agenda-no changes
- Approved Minutes from 1/12/22 Meeting
- Summary of meeting with Members of the Fire Department
 - Able to interview, separately, 7 members of the Fire Department and 1 by phone.
 - Take away from what was shared by Fire Fighters:
 - Shutesbury has a strong Fire Department-the town has the right model for our Fire Department
 - Department members support having a FT Fire Chief
 - Support for finding ways to increase the number of volunteers on the force
 - Discussed some ideas as to how to increase the volunteers-Kristen planning a civilian open house for the Police Department at some point. Perhaps there's a way to combine with the Fire Department. Discussed a possible Public Safety Day. It was noted that this would be difficult with Covid at this time.
- Information from other Fire Departments
 - Leverett is in a transition, according to Walter, though nothing has been formalized at this point. Appear to be moving towards a FT Chief.
 - Erving, Wendell, New Salem and Pelham all pay their Fire Fighters for responding to calls in addition to training.
 - Pelham does not have a FT chief, though, according to Walter, appear to be moving in the direction of having a FT Chief.
 - Over past decade towns have generally been moving toward having their own FT Chief.
 - Current Shutesbury Fire Chief's job description does not require the Chief to live in town, however the employment contract does.
 - Shutesbury's current job description has the Chief's position as "exempt" from overtime.
- Public Forum 1/26/22:
 - Becky will send out Town Announce asking for questions from citizens and inviting people to the Public Forum. The announcement will invite people to look at the town website for the Committee's Charge, minutes and summary
 - Questions will be sent to Kristen/Becky. They will forward those to Elaine
 - Elaine will moderate; Kristen and Becky will manage who is allowed into the meeting
 - Discussed possibility of another Zoom "bomb," and to let attendees know that should that happen, the meeting will be shut down, and attendees can log on again and will be let into the meeting
 - After we have responded to the questions, attendees will be invited to ask questions.
 - People will have 2 minutes
- Next steps:
 - Following the forum, the committee will begin to draft recommendations for the SB at our 2/2/22 meeting (which will be held at 6 pm

Adjourned at 11 am

• Upcoming Meetings:

- **1/26/22 @10 am; 1/26/22 @6 pm; 2/2/22 @6 pm**