

Town of Rutland Vermont
Select Board Fire Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 7th, 2024
4:30 PM Rutland Town Municipal Offices

Present: Select Board members Sharon Russell and Mary Ashcroft, Fire Chief Chris Clark, Assistance Fire Chief Mike Carlson.

Meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

1. **Sale of the old pick-up truck:** Once the Fire Department receives the new replacement pick-up truck, the old 1992 Ford F-350 diesel truck can be sold. At Mary's request, Bill Sweet had prepared a proposal to solicit sealed bids which the group reviewed. Chris Clark explained that the fire fighters were supposed to be allowed to bid first on the used vehicle; if there were no takers, then public bids were to be solicited. Discussion ensued. The full Select Board will be asked to determine what the process will be to dispose at sale of the old vehicle.

2. **Review of private fire hydrant ordinance:** Chris Clark had questioned letters that had gone out recently from the Town Administrator reminding property owners with private hydrants that they needed to have their private hydrant system tested each year. This is according to our town's Private Fire Hydrant Ordinance. Chris had been approached at work by an angry resident who complained that the letter threatened penalties for not complying. In fact, the letter specifically said that no enforcement or penalty is being imposed at this time. Chris was proved with a copy of the letter. He was unaware that they had been sent. The committee agreed that the Fire Chief should be informed whenever any future mailing is made about this topic, and the Town Administrator is asked to copy Chris Clark on these letters.

The Private Fire Hydrant Ordinance was last updated on November of 2023. Bill will be asked whether he is recommending any changes to that ordinance.

3. **Review of Fire Depreciation account, rate, and fire vehicle replacement schedule.** The group reviewed the amounts projected annually for the fire depreciation account and anticipated charges against it for replacement equipment in coming years. Give the increase cost of fire engines, it is possible that we should ask the voters to increase the annual contribution from 1.75 cents to 2 cents. The group also reviewed the vehicle replacement schedule, and believe it should be updated. It is possible that some vehicles should not be replaced. The Fire Committee agreed to revisit these issues at budget time in the fall. [See attached schedules.]

4. **Budget Needs for Next Fiscal Year.** The Fire Committee discussed how best to plan for replacement of SCBA units—all at once or a few every year. If all at once, should this amount come out of the depreciation fund or as a special ballot item at Town Meeting. If a few every year, the amount can come out of the new equipment budget line. The state now mandates that first response vehicles, including fire engines, to have new tires every 11 years. This is another item to research and budget for. No decision was made; further discussion at budget time is needed.

Respectfully submitted: Mary Ashcroft, Fire Committee member. 8-12-24

RTFD Vehicle Replacement Schedule

Vehicle	Mfr	Last Scheduled	Last Replaced	Recommended Date	Vehicle Expense	
Support 1	2941	Freightliner	2005	2004	2029	\$ 293,883.80
Engine 2	2922	Spartan	2007	2007	2032	\$ 200,193.00
Tanker 1	2931	Freightliner	2010	2012	2037	\$ 122,435.00
Engine 4	2924	Spartan	2013	2013	2038	\$ 281,418.08
Engine 1	2921	Spartan/Toyne	2018	2018	2043	\$ 541,153.44
Support 2	2942	Ford F350	2017	2019	2044	\$ 51,641.00
Engine 3	2923	Rosenbauer	2025	2021	2046	\$ 698,961.00
Support 3	2942-1	Ford F350	2022	2024	2049	\$ 70,000.00

Cost of Truck	Amount in depreciation	Withdrawals	Difference
	\$170,137.26 per annum		
	1 3/4 Cent		
2020 \$	669,041.00	\$ 629,065.00	\$ (29,920.00)
2021 \$	210,113.26	\$ 53,384.12	\$ (509,816.57)
2022 \$	326,866.40		\$ (436,259.22)
2023 \$	497,003.66		\$ (311,909.50)
2024 \$	667,140.92		\$ (190,307.03)
2025 \$	837,278.18		\$ (71,616.64)
2026 \$	1,007,415.44		\$ 45,986.93
2027 \$	1,177,552.70		\$ 156,318.48
2028 \$	1,347,689.96		\$ 265,181.68
2029 \$	1,517,827.22		\$ 370,368.45
2030 \$	1,687,964.48		\$ 471,658.18

changed cost to +6% annually for 2023 and up

Cost of Truck	Amount in depreciation	Withdrawals	Difference
	\$194,442.58 per annum		
	2024 on - 2 cent		
2020 \$	669,041.00	\$ 629,065.00	\$ (29,920.00)
2021 \$	210,113.26	\$ 53,384.12	\$ (509,816.57)
2022 \$	326,866.40		\$ (436,259.22)
2023 \$	497,003.66		\$ (311,909.50)
2024 \$	691,446.23		\$ (166,001.72)
2025 \$	885,888.80		\$ (23,006.02)
2026 \$	1,080,331.37		\$ 116,902.86
2027 \$	1,274,773.94		\$ 253,539.72
2028 \$	1,469,216.51		\$ 386,708.23
2029 \$	1,663,659.08		\$ 516,200.31
2030 \$	1,858,101.65		\$ 641,795.35