

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CITY STAFF PARTICIPATED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM  
VIDEO CONFERENCE  
February 3, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members present	Councilor Martin Pepin, Chairman
via Zoom:	Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent
	Councilor Richard R. Michaud (temp. Mayoral appointment)
	Councilor Nancie Cameron

Administration/Staff present	City Manager Bob Belmore
via Zoom:	Police Chief David Kretschmar
	Fire Chief George Kramlinger
	Finance Director Scott Smith
	Deputy City Clerk Ammy Ramsey

Public present via Zoom:	Stewart's Ambulance Rep. Paul Robidas
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Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

As Chair of the Somersworth Public Safety Committee, I, Councilor Martin Pepin find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. The public was asked to submit comments via email to [jslaven@somersworth.com](mailto:jslaven@somersworth.com) or [bbelmore@somersworth.com](mailto:bbelmore@somersworth.com) by Wednesday, February 3 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

*Councilor Cameron made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 3-0 by roll call vote. Councilor Michaud abstained.*

STEWARTS AMBULANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION

City Manager Belmore stated that he and Director Smith met with Mr. Robidas and his boss, Justin Van Etten to discuss an extension to their contract for EMS service for the City. Belmore then met with Chief Kramlinger to go over the Draft amendments that were reached with Stewarts. Belmore

proceeded to describe details of the recommended amendments, as follows and referring Committee members to the red-lined Contract that was in their meeting packet:

- 1. Term: Additional four additional years term beginning on August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2027. Adding Advanced-EMT ALS level service (and an option for 2 more years in 2027).
- 3. EMS: Adding Advanced-EMT ALS level service – since there may be times when a Paramedic is not available. Also, 56 hours per week to be mutually agreed upon by the Contractor and the City. – This more accurately reflects current practice.
- 9. Traffic Control Device: Presently they are located on Rte. 108, a State road, and there has been no need to install a preemption device. Added- Should the Contractor move its base of operations... the City may require one to be installed by Stewarts.
- 16. Quality Improvement: Stewart's Ambulance to provide up to \$5,000.00 per year in EMS/First aid educational scholarships to City personnel, scholarships to be paid after successful completion of coursework. This expands the potential for staff to get training in addition to EMT basic course work.
- 17. Heart Safe Community: Stewart's Ambulance Service shall provide the City with two AEDs annually, and training for them. Presently, we have AED devices in all our City buildings.
- 28. Billing, Dispatch and customer service office; senior management: We thought it important to require a NH based office and preclude the Contractor from transferring these functions to another State. Additionally, the new language provides more protection to terminate or renegotiate the contract if there is a change in management.

There was some discussion pertaining to the classes needed and the classification of the current personnel. Chief Kramlinger informed the Committee that of the 16 firefighters there are 14 EMT's, 2 AEMT's, and 2 First Responders. He also mentioned that the hospital offered some EMT Certification at no cost and, despite pandemic restrictions, they have been able to some training sessions like active shooter training.

***Councilor Vincent made a motion to recommend the Stewart Contract Amendments to the full City Council as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.***

#### UPDATES: POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS – EMS

Paul Robidas stated that response times have been around 4.2 and 4.3 minutes. Councilor Pepin inquired about response times with COVID protocols. Mr. Robidas stated that the times are not being affected too much with having to adhere to the PPE requirements even though they are required for every call. Mr. Robidas also mentioned he is attending a meeting tomorrow to discuss setting up vaccine distribution location for the City .

Chief Kretschmar presented a memorandum regarding new hires, utilization of the Crime Scene Unit, arrests, and some programs that are presently in place in order to help the community. City Manager Belmore also mentioned that he has asked the Chief to look into National Accreditation for the Department, the costs and staff commitment needed.

Staffing levels and employee retention were also discussed. After a present second police officer candidate is hired, they will be fully staffed. The Chief also stated that when an employee leaves, they are doing so in order to expand their career and better themselves. The consensus of the

Committee was that the organizations they are moving to are getting well trained and valuable employees.

City Manager Belmore mentioned that there was a bomb scare at City Hall today and the response from the PD and FD was swift and very well managed.

Chief Kramlinger informed the Committee that the Department has had a busy month. They have had a couple fire calls that had positive outcomes, in spite of the circumstances, because of response times, our well-trained firefighters as well as some citizen help. The Chief also mentioned some training completed on ice and cold-water rescue and hopes to get more training scheduled.

#### ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT APPLICATION

Chief Kramlinger presented a request to apply for an Assistance to Firefighter Grant. The Chief stated that the grant provides funding to departments for high priority equipment determined by FEMA. The Chief would like to submit an application for self-contained breathing apparatus, cylinder fill system and station, a turnout gear washer, and drying rack. The grant request is \$110,700.00 with a minimum match of 5% or \$5,830.00.

***Councilor Cameron made a motion to support the submission of the grant proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.***

#### SALE OF ENGINE 2

Chief Kramlinger presented a Memorandum outlining some reasons to consider regarding the sale of Engine 2 to include the Apparatus' age of 25 years in service, a new replacement Engine being ordered, and during the construction phase of the new fire station, there is only enough heated parking space for E-4, E-3, Truck-1, and F-1. Councilor Vincent stated the he would like some information before a vote such as maintenance records and how much would we get for the sale. Manager Belmore stated that this actual vote to authorize the sale would need to go before Council.

***Councilor Pepin made a motion to support moving forward with the sale of Engine 2. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cameron and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.***

#### NEW FIRESTATION BUILDING UPDATE

City Manager Belmore presented the Committee with the updates from Port One Architects and information concerning the hazardous material testing of the present fire station.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

No miscellaneous items were discussed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

***Councilor Cameron made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0 by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

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Ammy Ramsey, Deputy City Clerk