

**Thompson Fire Protection Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 7 p.m.**  
**Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department**

**AGENDA**

**PRESENT:** Kerstin Forrester, Mike Rivers, Steve Bodreau, Hogan Krohn, Costantino Galasso (Dino) was seated as substitute for John Sharpe; Alternate Todd Mountford; Michael Ladyka

- Chair Kerstin Forrester called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
- Steve Bodreau made a motion to accept Minutes of April 30, 2014 meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hogan Krohn; passed
- Citizens Comments – none present
- Committee Member Comments:
  - Steve Bodreau discussed OSHA testing definition and what costs are paid for by the Town; maintenance of equipment inspected by OSHA is not a testing cost and currently is not paid by the town. He also reminded the chiefs that physicals are required of all members by a certified physician.
  - Kerstin Forrester told the members that she will be going to Hartford to respond to the complaint filed by Mr. Paul Baer against her, the Committee, and the Town because minutes for November and December meetings were posted a week late. Todd Mountford said that he will accompany Kerstin to the hearing.
  - Hogan asked about requirements for posting minutes and agendas on the Fire Department's website if these are posted on the bulletin board at Town Hall. Kerstin will check the requirements.
- Correspondence - none
- Continue discussion of creating awareness and buy-in for creating a model similar to Woodstock's.
  - Discussed Hogan's email with recommendations on how to create public awareness of the need for the town to finance the FDs.
    - Write a collective letter to the public that focuses on "who we are and what we do"; current funding levels, the cost of OSHA requirements, (personal protection gear, tires, etc); and how the suggested organization would function.
  - Suggested that we ask the local papers to report on emergency calls by Fire Department each week, i.e. fires, accident assistance, etc.
  - Suggested that we work with the Villager to write features about each Fire Department during the next two months, including photos and interviews. Kerstin will talk to Jason Bleu
  - Consider setting up a Facebook page for each Fire Department
  - Ask WINY to do interviews with the Chiefs

- Community Day participation:
  - Set up a table and each FD will have representatives
  - Get a big map outlining each FD area – Kerstin will check with someone at town hall to get help with this
  - Include house numbers on map so people will know which FD covers them
  - Each FD will put together data - # of call last year or YTD, # of volunteers at each FD, a list of requirements for training and time for training, and OSHA requirements.
  - Create a “Do you know” card regarding training
- Check legal status of Thompson Firemen’s Association. Kerstin will check with Atty. St. Onge
- Hogan Krohn made a motion to adjourn; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Rivers, passed, meeting adjourned at 8:35
- Next Meeting: June 25, 2014 at 7 p.m. at East Thompson VFD

Respectfully submitted,

Kerstin Forrester, Chair