

Tivoli Fire Department and Rescue Squad

Minutes of Tivoli Fire Company Director meeting with the Village Trustees December 16, 2008

CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Meeting was opened at 7:04 pm and a quorum was determined to be present for the conduct of business.

Village Trustees Present:

Mayor Tom Cordier
Deputy Mayor Bryan Cranna
Susan Ezrati
Michael S. Leedy
Anthony Staffiero

Tivoli Fire Department Directors Present:

President Thomas Crisci
Thomas Crisci Jr.
Mark Hildenbrand
Ralph Torchia
Kevin Van Wagner

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

WORKING RELATIONSHIP:

It was agreed there should be a better working relationship between the Village Trustees and the Village Fire Department. There needs to be better communication between the two departments to prevent such issues as:

DPW using the sewer plant

- Portable pump – it blew up and takes hours
 - Working off of one pump is difficult and they want their own equipment
 - Borrowed equipment leads to usage problems and breakage
- Generator

Bryan Cranna suggested that a checklist be used at every event for better communication.

Mark asked that lettering and messages not be taken off the sign. If the village needs to put up a message they should share the space with the message that is already there.

It was agreed that the investment in the generator was a good idea.

BUDGET:

Mark suggested that annually there should be:

- Physicals that measure blood pressure
- Truck/building maintenance
- Pager repair
- Masks checked for air leaks
- Air pack/pressure testing (every 2-3 years)

It was questioned who decides the budget and suggest that more then one person should decide how the budget is spent. It was mentioned by Thomas that the chief is only in charge when there is a fire and suggested that the Board of Directors should have input on the budget spending.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Fire Hydrants:

Some fire hydrants not working is a major issue. Out of service hydrants should be marked; the fire department needs to be aware at all times which hydrants are not working. It was decided that the hydrants need to be flushed annually to prevent problems and the best time to do this is in the summer, or half in the spring and half in the summer. It was suggested that if the pressure were released more often then the pipes might not break as often. There needs to be more preventative maintenance with the hydrants. Tom Cordier suggested a computer program be used to remind when the hydrants should be flushed.

Water Source:

Water source was another issue addressed. If there were a large fire in the village it would cause a problem. There is only enough water in the tower for a couple of hours. There is more of a chance of large fire problems with more Restaurants and tenants living in the village. Michael Leedy suggested taking water from the river but Ralph said that would take too much time and wouldn't work.

It was suggested that water could be taken from behind the Masonic Hall. Tom Cordier suggested rebuilding the dam to 3 to 5 feet, and with no homes on the hill it would not be a safety risk. He made the point that even though aesthetically it would not be great, people would be ok with it for fire safety reasons.

Parking:

It was suggested that parking be moved back from the signs at the four corners because it is hard to make turns with the trucks. Also, the hydrant in front of the Madalin is not accessible. It was also suggested that there be more parking spots for the Emergency Response team. Ralph suggested staggering the parking on Broadway.

Building Maintenance:

Ralph mentioned how they have been trying to maintain the building so that multiple future problems don't arise all at once. It was noted that the roof leak was a significant problem.

Zoning:

Mark stated how there were some river estates and houses on 9G that were not wide enough to access with the trucks. The problem was mostly with the tree limbs not being wide enough.

Mark said that the Fire Department should be made aware of single family houses that have been converted to multiple family houses. The Fire Department should be aware of how many people are living in each house perhaps by setting up walk-throughs.

911 Signs – Numbers on houses have to be a certain size to be visible and clear to the emergency response team. A village-wide meeting was suggested to inform people of these regulations. Susan Ezrati suggested making people aware through a program similar to driver's education. Kevin Van Wagner suggested putting a message on PANDA. Residents also need to be aware not to cover hydrants with snow when shoveling.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

Scott Packs: Tivoli is the only village in Dutchess County still using 2.0 (old) Scott Packs. These old Packs are not compatible with other towns. The packs need to be switched all at once, not in pieces. Michael Leedy suggested that Sandy Williams could help the Fire Department get a grant for new Packs.

Emergency Shelter: As of now it is hard to run everyone in the Village out of one room in an emergency. It was suggested that a steel building be erected out back and that there should be better showers/decontamination room due to blood on gear being a problem.

Thomas added that a short term election would change the by-laws for retirement.

Ralph added that there is a list of equipment bought with the fundraiser money to ensure that the fundraiser money is being spent wisely. He said that 25% of the money made from fundraisers is being put aside and that they have saved up about \$8,000.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabrielle Green, Recording Secretary