

Fire Chief Study Committee
Minutes 2/9/22
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting began 7:00 PM

Present: Kristin Burgess, Walter Tibbetts, April Stein, Elaine Puleo, Jim Walton

Also Present: Becky Torres, Mr Odinslaw, Alicia Richter, Veronica Richter, Paul DeMARco, Justin Vecina, Gary Rehorka, Christine Sullivan, Roo Trimble, Rachel Schwab

- Changes to the agenda: none
- Minutes from 2/2/22 Meeting accepted with edits
- Comments on Draft Recommendations to be sent to the Selectboard:
 - Committee members support no residency requirement for new Chief
 - Attach to the Recommendations a copy of the comments from Fire Fighters from the interviews from January, 2022.
 - Support Full Time “Strong Chief” as outlined in Mass General Law, Part 1, Title VII, Chapter 48 Section 42.
 - Committee recommends new Fire Chief’s residence requirement should be same as Police Chief (no more than 35 minute drive from Shutesbury town line)
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 - Walter’s recommendations are to leave in the Job Description:
 - Emergency Management Director
 - Chief at least overseeing Training if not providing Training
 - Overseeing Equipment Maintenance (typical for small town Fire Chief)
 - Grant writing
 - Administrative Duties
 - Committee felt there was no benefit to pursue a shared chief
 - Lose cohesiveness of team
 - No significant cost savings
 - Response times could be impacted
 - Difficult to share Chief across County Boundaries
- Committee approved the Report from the Fire Chief Study Committee, with edits, be sent to the Selectboard
- Fire Chief Study Committee will meet with the Selectboard to discuss the recommendations at their meeting on 2/15/22 @ 630 PM
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Meeting Adjourned 757PM

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