

**UNION FIRE DISTRICT OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
131 ASA POND ROAD, WAKEFIELD, R.I.
APRIL 6, 2015 7:30 PM**

Wardens: Present: Mr. Steere, Mr. Ciccone, Mr. Boisvert, Mr. McClarnon and Mr. Sloan

Chiefs: Chief Carney, Deputy Chiefs Pinch, Collinson, Whaley and Cinquegrana

Others: District Clerk, Assistant Fire Marshal Hiener, Captain Grande, Lt. Whaley, Lt. Guarino, Captain Northup, Lt. Bernier, Lt. Bergantini, Captain Notarantonio, Lt. Maine, Lt. Dubee, Lt. McGrath, Captain Pastore, Lt. Schofield, FF Munson, Captain Brandmeier, Lt. Coyle, Captain Duckworth, Lt. Neilsen, Lt. J. Carpinelli, Captain Carey, Lt. McKinney, Capt. Billings and Lt. Nolan

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Steere called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

MANPOWER: Deputy Chief Pinch thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Deputy Chief Pinch then advised that a concern for the District as well as for many volunteer fire departments throughout the country is coverage during weekday business hours. Deputy Chief Pinch then advised that the main purpose for tonight's meeting is to seek input and possible solutions for this issue moving forward. Deputy Chief Pinch then discussed that getting trucks to scenes for minor calls is becoming a concern. Chief Carney then advised that he has gathered rosters during the last couple of weeks and observed that the District is down to 134 firefighters and which is much lower than previous years when the District had over 200 firefighters. Chief Carney then advised that the District answered 816 alarms last year and which averaged 3 to 4 firefighters per alarm. Chief Carney then advised that the main issue to solve is how to get a better overall response with calls for service. Lt. Neilsen then suggested implementing a call pay program for responding firefighters throughout the District. Captain Notarantonio then inquired if there was a way to obtain a list of available firefighters for duty coverage and make assignments on a rotational basis and which could include stipend pay of \$20 per day to cover meals. Captain Notarantonio further advised that the District could limit the duty shift to 4 or 5 members on the duty truck and which would be scheduled in advance for to help ensure coverage during week days. Captain Northup then inquired if this issue was mainly a Monday to Friday and did not involve weekend coverage. Deputy Chief Pinch then affirmed that the coverage concerns were mainly during business hours on weekdays. Further discussion included scheduling logistics, creating incentives for to encourage younger members to be more active as well as researching how other volunteer fire departments are handling this issue. Discussion also included the Charlestown Rescue's program and which include both paid and volunteer shift assignments. Mr. Ciccone then advised that during previous meetings stipends were

discussed for duty trucks and which included a driver and two people and who would be paid \$25 for meals and inquired if there was any interest in that program within the District. Discussion then ensued regarding budget concerns and that for the time being one duty truck would be sufficient. Captain Northup then discussed scheduling the duty truck program through the JTC which could be a collaborative District wide effort with duty members from various stations. Captain Pastore then advised that he generally responds to his station on Fridays and if no other crew members show he will not run a duty truck but would if members from other stations responded. Discussion ensued regarding staffing the duty trucks as well as cancelling responding units when no further response is required. Further discussion included posting an online calendar to sign up for duty coverage, potential location sites for the duty truck coverage as well as past and present duty truck coverage. Also discussed were mutual aid responses within the District along with neighboring communities.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION: Discussed ensued regarding whether there was a one year probation period for all UFD probationary firefighters. Deputy Chiefs Pinch and Whaley then advised that there is no time frame regarding the probationary period. It was further discussed that once a Station determines that a firefighter is ready to come off probationary status and passes the final exam; the probationary status will end. It was further discussed that probationary period varies depending on experience, knowledge etc. and can be as short as thirty days to over a one year period. Discussion then ensued regarding training, Joint Training Committee, training notifications and the District website.

DUTY ENGINE: This agenda item was covered during the discussion of manpower.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS/FIREFIGHTERS: Deputy Chief Pinch then thanked everyone who participated in the meeting and which generated a lot of good ideas. Chief Carney then advised that agenda items were covered and would like move forward and get one thing squared away and build on that moving forward. Deputy Chief Collinson then advised that there is an open door policy in place and if anyone has a concern, suggestion and or comment to let the Chief's know. Chairman Steere then thanked everyone for their attendance and appreciated their input and participation. Mr. Ciccone then advised that the Board appreciates all that that firefighters do. Mr. Ciccone then advised that the Board always tries to get the best equipment for those members involved in firefighting; fire trucks equipped with the latest technologies, new Scott's equipment but the District does have budgetary limits although the budget has seen increases with each year. Mr. Ciccone then thanked the line officers in attendance and who have great responsibilities and who all do a great job and would like these actions continue in the future. Mr. Boisvert then advised that our doors are open too but would prefer that members go to the Chief's first; but will listen to anything anyone has to say. Mr. McClarnon then advised that he is always available and anyone and feel free to contact us at any time but also to go through the chain of command first.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Blessing
District Clerk

Date Amended _____

Date Accepted _____

I, John P. Blessing, District Clerk, do certify that the attached minutes are a true and accurate copy of the April 6, 2015 Meeting of the Board of Wardens of the Union Fire District and that they have not been amended except as cited above.

John P. Blessing
District Clerk