



Town of
North Stonington, Connecticut

Emergency Services Operations Committee Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 6:15. Attendees included Charlie Steinhart, Jim Tuttle, Sarah Nelson, Tricia Cunningham, Carl Johnson.
2. Approval of meeting minutes tabled.
3. Guest Presenter, Battalion Chief Brandon Raquet from Worcester, PA Fire Department joined to provide an overview on recruitment and staffing strategy. The overview included:
 - Manage 233-250 calls per year, primarily residential and farmland with minimal commercial
 - Created a committee a committee for recruitment and retention and executed the following initiatives
 - Stipend for volunteers – payout at the end of the year
 - Enabled local municipalities to over tax credit for local town taxes
 - Township employee incentive to address daytime volunteer shortage
 - 7 full time and one part time employee are volunteer fire fighters
 - They are provided a 6K full time and 3k part time stipend from the town to participate as volunteers
 - Volunteers respond to daytime calls and are allocated 3 hours per week to conduct training
 - Refined recruitment and training process
 - Assigned two advocates to all new recruits focused on mentorship
 - Offered inhouse tract that allows folks to volunteer in different ways
 - Upgraded fire department to create an engaging atmosphere and fun place to be
 - Renovated members room
 - Upgraded gym to keep volunteers on site
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- Recruitment strategies included social media tools to target specific demographics and locations, sign out front, recruitment rewards, public events and members
- New recruits are given a skills package
- Recruits run initiatives, for example running drills, enables training & retention
- Focus on catering interests to skills

4. Survey Data Review – Reviewed fire department funding models including fire tax/fire district.

5. Next Steps

- Potential recommendations to Selectmen Board
 - Offer stipend to town employees to become part of NSVFD
 - Continue volunteer recruitment
 - Need for some level of paid staffing

6. No public comments received

7. Motion to adjourn from Charlie Steinhart, seconded by Carl Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm