

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN RESCUE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009, AT 7:00 P.M.
FIRE AND RESCUE BUILDING**

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and thanked those members in attendance.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2008 MEETINGS:

Motion to approve the minutes. Jennifer asked for any discussion and there was none. All members voted in favor/minutes approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Polly provided members with a packet containing the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2008, P&L for 2008 and projected budget for 2009, Cash Projections from 2009 through 2011 and the Squad Goals. She noted that the Balance Sheet reflects our cash balance is down a little over \$10,000 from December 31, 2007. She called members' attention to the second page of the packet that contains the actual P&L for 2008 and the proposed 2009 budget. Polly pointed out that the only reason our cash balance is down \$10,000 and not more this year is because of Jen's efforts in collecting about \$62,900 in billing revenues when we normally collected around \$43,800 annually. Obviously about \$20,000 of the amount collected represents billing prior to 2008; however, without this collection effort, our loss would have been around \$24,000 instead of the \$14,000 reflected on the P&L. Polly noted that Jen is doing a fabulous job for the squad. The second page also contains the projected budget for 2009 that projects a \$60,000 loss. She noted that of the \$24,000, appropriated by the town last year to ensure Rescue coverage through Enosburg in the event we were unable to provide coverage, we have used less than \$2,000 of those funds. Polly stated those funds will be in the 2009 town budget, but we must remember that these funds do not come in until after taxes are paid in October. Polly noted that the difference in 2010 would be in payroll. It is proposed that by 2011, Franklin Rescue will be back to all volunteer with the exception of the Administrative Director which will be continued as a paid position.

Polly noted that no one realizes how much work Jen is putting in here. She has been looking for any grants, purchasing our supplies, ambulance maintenance, scheduling, training for her I03 certification and putting in a lot of time. Polly stated that due to this workload, she believed the Administrative Director position should remain a paid position, even if the squad is able to function as an all volunteer service.

Discussion was held on the subscription fee of \$50, which has been raised for the first time in years. It was noted that the subscription fee is a separate thing. For those people subscribing to the service, should they require rescue services, their insurance company will be billed and we will accept the payment by the insurance company as payment in full. The subscriber will not be responsible for any remaining balance. It was noted that some people have questioned the increase in the subscription rate, but our fee is still below many other services and the Rescue Service is available to residents at a very reasonable cost thanks to volunteers.

Jen noted that we are making every effort to stay under budget and cut expenses whenever we can with the biggest line item being salaries. Jen noted that recruiting is a major goal. She also noted there are some members who have indicated they will not re-certify this year. Jen was asked about recruiting efforts, she advised that we have five new members this year, four of whom have received their certifications. We have one person who is scheduled to join at the end of this month. Jen also has made phone calls to four other prospective members who have expressed an interest at one point or another. The article in the Town Report will also include the ongoing need for volunteers. Polly noted that if we have to continue to pay for coverage, we will not be able to continue functioning as a transport service, but will have the option of becoming a first responder service with the town paying to have Enosburg provide ambulance service. We need to get back to an all-volunteer service and we need the position of the Administrative Director.

Last year, the \$24,000 was put in the town budget in the event that we were unable to provide services. The Selectboard has decided to roll over the unused funds and has asked the squad to provide another article for the taxpayers. The only difference is this year, the funds will go directly to Franklin Rescue.

Motion to approve the 2008 Treasurer's Report and the 2009 Budget. All members voted in favor/motion passed.

SUBSCRIPTION LETTERS:

Jen advised that the annual subscription letter went out yesterday. There were 736 mailed so, hopefully, we will start seeing some revenue.

TRAINING:

Jen advised they are looking to start combined training (with Enosburg) in February. They will do training on the second Monday of the month. Ours will be second or third Thursday, whatever works best for Enosburg and us. She noted they hope to find an OB/GYN instructor for the February 9th session in Enosburg. Jen stated she will check on a refresher class in March or April. She will send a note to everyone applicable. The basic EMT class that was going to be done at the end of January has been postponed into February now. If anyone is interested in taking it, it will be held in Enosburg. It will be on a Tuesday and Saturday one week and Thursday the following week. It will run through May.

For the B Class we will see who we can get enrolled in addition to the person who will join at the end of the month. It was asked if classes are also given in Burlington and Jen advised they are should anyone want to make that run.

EMS WEEK:

Jen advised there is an EMS Week set aside in May that runs up to Memorial Day. Jen suggested that we run an open house. We have a number of bears and could hold a Teddy Bear Clinic. We could also have a child safety seat check, possibly raffle off something. Members were asked to come up with suggestions/comments.

There is also the Memorial Day Parade where we could put in a float. The parade is always held on Monday so the open house/clinic could be held the weekend prior to the parade. Jen asked members for suggestions and comments.

WEBSITE:

Jen advised that she recently updated and posted some photo on the website. It was suggested that more photos be posted, Jen invited anyone having photos to send them to her.

GRANT:

Jen updated members of the status of the 12-lead grant. She stated she submitted two letters of inquiry that were both declined. Today, Jen submitted a 28-page grant for \$10,000. Jen stated if the grant is refused, we may have to purchase a refurbished unit. Jen has also applied for other grants and continues to check for grants that will help our service. Polly complimented Jen on all the work she has done towards these grants.

STATISTICS:

Jen went over 2008 statistics with the members. We had a total of 141 calls as compared to 152 calls last year. She noted that we had three mutual aid calls, two to Richford and one to Berkshire. She noted that we had quite a bit of coverage by Enosburg in July. John asked how this year compared with prior years and Jen provided statistical information. We have had considerably more mutual aid calls.

DISPATCH FEES:

Discussion was held on the increase in the dispatcher fees again this year. It was noted that the fee this year would be nearly \$8,000.

Jen asked if members had anything further and there was nothing.

Motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. was voted on and approved.

NOTE: These minutes were voted on an approved at the February 3, 2008 business meeting.