

**MINUTES OF FRANKLIN RESCUE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009 AT 7:00 P. M.
FIRE AND RESCUE BUILDING**

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., by thanking those in attendance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of the January meeting were sent to members via e-mail. All members voted to approve the minutes with two minor amendments.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Polly provided members with a copy of the P&L and Balance Sheet. Polly pointed out that on the P&L, we show \$8400 under subscription income which represents 168 subscriptions. Expenses were \$6138.61 which remains about the same. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was voted on and approved, report accepted as presented.

SCHEDULING:

Conference: Jen noted that the EMS conference is coming up at the end of March. She requested that once members know what they want to do for the conference that they let her know, especially those who run on the day shift. Most members probably received the brochure, but there is one posted on the board and she has a few extra copies. Jen needs to know if attendance will impact upon your shift and noted that she would also like to attend. There is a deadline (February 25th) by which we can receive a discounted price and members were asked to submit their applications to Jen in a timely manner so that we can get the discounted price.

February/March Schedules: Jen asked if there were any questions on the February/early March schedule.

She stated there are a couple of dates that members should keep in mind. March 8, 2009 is the Fire Department's annual pancake breakfast.

The annual Fire Department/Rescue Chicken Barbecue is scheduled for July 4th this year. It is a combined effort and she asked that members plan to give at least a few hours to help out on that date.

The Lake Carmi fireworks will be on July 3rd. Rescue will provide standby at the north end of the lakeshore.

Jen asked that members keep these dates in mind.

TRAINING:

Combined Training with Enosburg: Will be held on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Emergency Services Building across from Hannaford's in Enosburg. She stated some of the things covered will be IV, Combitube and protocols. Jen pointed out that this is a good training to attend so that you know how to assist in the back of the rig. It will not be lost on anyone who is not an EMT-Intermediate.

FAHC Case Review: Jen informed members there is a unique training opportunity available at Fletcher Allen Health Care at 6:30 p.m. on February 12th. It will be a pediatric case review and will cover pediatric emergencies, seizures and airways. Jen stated she has heard they are very good and attendance will count towards continuing education credits for pediatrics. She asked members who attend to let her know so she can update records.

Domestic & Sexual Assault: Jen informed that Richford will have a speaker on Thursday, February 26th at their emergency services building. It will be on domestic and sexual assault. Continuing education credits are also available. She noted it is tailored to EMS. Jen noted there is no charge for any of this training, and they are opportunities for continuing education. Jen will need to know if anyone attends to update our training records.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Memorial Parade Float: Jen asked for volunteers to help with planning and making a float for the Memorial Day parade. She stated that on Saturday of the memorial weekend, she would like to have a three to four hour event followed by putting the finishing touches on the parade float.

RECRUITING:

Jen informed members there have been some changes in what we had hoped was going to happen. The young lady we expected to join will not be taking the B-Class. She further advised that we are looking at three to five members who may not be re-certifying in May or June. Jen will be developing a couple of recruiting brochures. She also plans to "talk it up" to anybody who may remotely have an inclination towards joining. She feels word of mouth is the best advertisement. Notices have also been posted at the general store, Byam's, telephone company and the post office. "Pulse" is also going to have something. It was pointed out that we can use all levels of volunteers - drivers, EMS or CFR. Members were asked to spread the word around.

It was noted that we need to put as much energy into keeping people as we do in recruiting. It was discussed that we aren't sure what more we can do. Jen stated we can't make more hours in the day, but she is willing to change shifts around, possibly running four six hour shifts, rather than two twelve hour shifts; breaking up the weekends is a possibility, but if we don't have enough people we can't do it. It would certainly make scheduling more complicated, but Jen stated she is willing to do it if it would help.

It was noted that at different points in time, the squad has made changes in schedules, in training, but at some point there is only so much we can do - if their heart isn't in it and they are not willing to do it no matter what we do, it won't help. It is discouraging and we may need to reach the point where the squad can no longer continue before people realize what they have lost. There certainly are enough people in Franklin who could volunteer. For some people the course is a big thing. We need to convince people that it can be done. We held an EMT class right here in town and of the 8 to 10 people who took the class, none are running with us any longer. Polly also pointed out that if Enosburg were to take over, it would not be just the \$24,000 provided by the town. They would do subscription drives, bill insurances, etc.

OPERATIONS:

Ambulance: Jen reminded members that at this time of the year with salt and snow, please mop out the rig including the area by the crew chief's chair. She asked that everyone keep that in the back of their minds.

10-97: Jen reminded members of the 10-97 on Monday, Wednesdays and Friday nights and the only one that needs to be acknowledged is the one on Friday night.

Grant: Jen advised she received another rejection/decline on the 12-lead grant. She has already submitted another one to the Department of Rural Health and Home Services in Rural Communities. It is not a one hundred percent applicable, but she told them what we are looking for is AED with twelve-lead capability. Hopefully, they will consider it. The 24th is the follow up date on another previously submitted grant. Even the possibility of getting more AED's is good. Jen noted these grants are available every year. Funding is renewed every year and due the first week in February.

District Meeting: Tomorrow night is the District I meeting. The January meeting was cancelled.

Dispatch Fees: Jen informed that the Selectboard meeting is next Monday. Justin, Mike and Jen will attend as will Chief Taylor from the St. Albans City Police Department, who oversees dispatch. Chief Taylor will speak to the Selectboard about the increase in fees. Jen did go to the Dispatch Advisory Meeting. The Dispatchers' Union received a three-year contract with a fifteen percent salary increase across the board. There also was a twenty-four percent increase in health care across all city services. She explained that Dispatch was having a problem keeping trained personnel as they would leave to go to Williston because the pay was more there. Since the pay increase, they have seen more consistency. They will have a five percent increase over the next three years so that we will be seeing that in addition to any health insurance increases. Health care is what they are charging. The budget is already in and she doesn't know whether the meeting will change anything or not.

STATISTICS:

Jen went over the January 2009 statistics. We had 13 total calls, 11 of which were transports.

One was a no transport and one was covered by Enosburg. Five of the calls were medical; one was MV; two were falls in the home; and, three were for medical transports from Northwestern. Jen noted that only four of the calls involved the Homestead/Carriage House, making only thirty one percent of the calls from there. Sixty-nine percent were from other areas of the town. Polly noted that many residents are under the mistaken impression that the majority of our calls come from the Homestead/Carriage House.

OPEN FORUM:

Ambulance Repairs: It was noted that the solenoid has been replaced so there is now heat. Also, the lights that were out have now been replaced.

Budget: Last meeting we talked about the cost we paid to Enosburg and it was thought it was somewhere around \$2,000. It turns out, however, that it was actually \$1,300. The Selectboard was going to roll the remainder over, but after discussion it was decided that since the money is in a separate account the warning this year will ask the taxpayers' approval to turn the remainder of those funds over to Rescue. We will need to be ready to respond to questions and concerns at Town Meeting. We will not be asking taxpayers for additional funds this year, just the remainder of the 2008 allocated funds. A motion was made that in 2009 we pay for any coverage needed for Enosburg out of Rescue funds if the town approves turning over the remainder of the 2008 funds. All members voted in favor/motion passed. It was asked if Enosburg is still interested in providing us backup; they are.

Business Meeting: Some members have expressed the desire to have our business meetings on the first Monday of the month. It was changed because the Fire Department holds their meeting on the first Monday also and it made for a lot of people in here at the same time. Jen stated if we want to go back to the first Monday, she will see if the FELCO room will be available to us. Jen will send out an e-mail requesting preferences from all members and asking that everyone respond to her message.

Motion to adjourn. At 7:56 p.m., all members voted in favor.