

Workplace, Health & Safety Committee

March 2, 2022

1:00 PM Town Hall

*Members present:* Matthew Riiska, Barbara Gomez, Lauren Valentino, Bill Brodnitzki and Tom Gorski

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. with Barbara Gomez as chairperson.

*Minutes: September 1, 2021*

**MOTION** B. Brodnitzki to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2021 meeting as presented. Second T. Gorski. Carried unanimously.

Old Business

Ambulance

- M. Riiska reported that the line painting at the EMS Building will be rescheduled in the Spring. It was scheduled last Fall but it got too cold.

NVFD

- M. Riiska reported that an architect is working on the plans for the new firehouse. We have come to an agreement on the size and position of the building.

New Business

Ambulance

- B. Brodnitzki reported that the ambulance is hurting in the area of manpower. There are a number of people out of town and there is a lot of red ink in the schedule. They are trying to recruit as some of the volunteers are ageing out. Bill is going to write to our State Representative because one of the problems is that the State of Connecticut keeps adding new requirements for the EMT training. An EMT now must undergo 40 hours of continuous education every two years as well as a skills assessment. The extensive training makes it more difficult to recruit volunteers. Norfolk currently provides mutual aide to Winsted and Colebrook. One good thing is that the new Health Center in Winsted cuts the call time in half.
- B. Brodnitzki also reported that there is a growing concern because there is talk of booting the medic out of the old Winsted Hospital and having them operate out of New Hartford. This would add another 10-15 minutes to a Norfolk call. There was some discussion regarding the "fly cars" (medics) and where they will be positioned in relation to Norfolk's needs.
- B. Brodnitzki thanked Public Works for being helpful clearing driveways for the ambulances.

Botelle School

- L. Valentino offered Botelle's weekly newsletter to assist with the ambulance or fire department recruiting.
- L. Valentino reported that Botelle School is still following the COVID guidelines including the mask "optional" approach. There have been zero cases in the last month at the

Botelle School (continued)

school. There are about 5% of staff members and 15% of students still choosing to wear a mask. 90% of the staff is vaccinated as well as 55% of students. There has been great support from the parents and community regarding the ever-changing COVID guidance.

- A new daytime custodian is being hired. This will be Neil Daley's last week.
- The school slide was discussed. Lauren and Neil walked around and inspected the slide for safety issues. There is no danger that it will fall down and the children are kept away from it during recess.
- M. Riiska will be getting a quote to repave the upper parking lot.
- A new 5,000 gallon above ground fuel tank is being ordered.
- The Garland Company is working on the engineering plans for the school roof. Once the engineering is completed they will send it out for bid. It will be a raised metal roof that will accommodate solar panels.

Any Worker's Compensation Injuries – None

**MOTION** B. Brodnitzki to adjourn at 1:42 p.m. Second T. Gorski. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gomez, Secretary