

A meeting of the Mendon Citizens Advisory Committee for Town of Mendon Fire Service was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at the Mendon Community Center, 167 North Main Street, Honeoye Falls, NY 14472.

PRESENT: Muffy Meisenzahl; Mendon Supervisor, John Moffitt; Chief Peter Kester (via Zoom); Mike Arman; Gerald Lonhair; Chief Cory Trewer; David Smith; Robin Stewart Ha; Steve Tschiderer; and Anthony Militello; Karen Jenkins

ABSENT: Ryan Wilsey

OTHERS: Jackie Main; Mary Scanlon; Danny Bassette, IT support.

Minutes were taken by Bonnie Toomey

Ms. Meisenzahl opened the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Ms. Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING

Ms. Meisenzahl pointed out the exits and restrooms.

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Meisenzahl acknowledged others present.

MINUTES for the October 26, 2022 meeting were approved as amended.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Ms. Meisenzahl stated all the materials for the meeting are posted at least 24 hours before the meeting and are on the Town website.

Communication: Ms. Meisenzahl referred to the Assessor's numbers. The Assessment roll closes on July 1st of every year. Changes can happen due to Small Claims and correction of errors. Spreadsheets with assessments are consistent.

COMMITTEE CHARGE

Task 2 – Ms. Meisenzahl referred to Chapter 5, page 2. The capital expense information for Water Districts is valid. She explained that the Town bonds the capital expense and the taxpayers reimburse the Town, therefore no general Town-side debt.

There were no questions.

On page 4, Ms. Meisenzahl added that the New York State Comptroller issues stress scores for local governments. Both the Town and the Village have no issues.

Mr. Smith questioned what goes into determining stress scores. Mr. Moffitt answered, anything out of your control such as population, home values, median annual income, age groups and poverty level figure into Environmental Stress. Ms. Meisenzahl added that this type of information will be in the demographics section. Fiscal Stress is all to do with budget. There's

an annual update document each municipality provides to the Comptroller's Office each year. It's a five-year lookback as far as how much money did you spend, how much did you bring in type of analysis.

Ms. Meisenzahl referred to a modification on the Indebtedness Chart, stating that the 2020 Village Dump Truck is removed from the Chart as it is a lease, not a serial bond per Village Administrator, Brian Anderson.

Ms. Meisenzahl reviewed the following documents explaining how maximum available indebtedness is determined:

- Document #8 – Maximum Indebtedness for the Town, Village, and Mendon Fire District.
- Document #9 – Indebtedness for the Village and Town.

Task 1 – Governance and Jurisdictions; Current Capacities:

Honeoye Falls Fire Department

Mr. Militello reviewed the following handout showing the decline in personnel.

Handout #1 – Volunteer Force by Designation June of 2009 - June of 2022

Ms. Meisenzahl asked to clarify the Total Active Force numbers, questioning if some personnel serve in dual positions. Mr. Militello answered affirmatively. Mr. Moffitt asked if some of the EMTs are associated with the ambulance. Mr. Militello said no. Ms. Jenkins asked what probationary meant. Mr. Militello stated it is a twelve-month trial period to see if the volunteer is a good fit.

There was discussion on the reasons for the decline including aging out, loss to college, affordable housing to name a few.

Mr. Militello reviewed the following handout providing the closest available numbers for an annual average of how many firefighters respond to incidents.

Handout #2 – Average Manpower Response by series 2015 – 2022

The following handout from Mr. Militello provided average manpower available, manpower response and manpower numbers recommended by National Fire Protection Association and/or the Department.

Handout #3 – Average Manpower Response to Structure Fires, EMS incidents, MVAs and Alarms 2015 - 2022

The following handout shows the average and varied response times for enroute and on scene times broken down by each piece of fire department apparatus. The times were pulled from the 9-1-1 CAD system. There was discussion on the varied response times. Mr. Militello explained what is involved in the volunteers receiving the alarm, getting into their vehicle, getting to the firehouse, getting their gear on, getting into the truck and then the truck goes to the call. Mr.

Militello intends to update the data January 1, 2023. Mr. Tschiderer provided some information on Industry Standard response times. Mr. Militello and Chief Trewer acknowledged saying current response is falling short.

Handout #4 – Average Response Times, Village Response Area, Mendon Fire Protection District

Mr. Militello reviewed the Mutual Aid and Mutual Assistance Summary handout. He updated it with more complete information. He stated that the chart shows the number of times Mutual Aid and/or Assistance was sent or received. He said to keep in mind the Aid Given represents one truck whereas the Aid Received represents total units. Mr. Smith questioned sending the local Fire Department personnel to fill in for other departments, Mr. Militello and Chief Trewer explained the “mutual” aspect as well as what officers, personnel are sent and kept in house. Mr. Moffitt asked if the uptick in the numbers indicates that the other agencies are experiencing the same (staffing) problems. Mr. Militello agreed that the volunteer agencies in this area are having the same issues.

The second page was done at the Supervisor’s request. It shows, by Honeoye Falls Fire Department records, the number of times Aid was given or received between Honeoye Falls Fire Department and Mendon Fire Department. 2022 numbers are current through November 7th, already more calls, so the number will increase by the end of the year.

Handout #5 – Honeoye Falls Fire Department Mutual Aid and Mutual Assistance Summary 2015-11/7/2022**

Handout #6 – Town of Mendon Mutual Aid and Mutual Assistance 2015-2022

The next handout shows the current roster and their certification levels. Mr. Militello defined the Type, Rank and levels of training on this table. The number of hours for basic firefighter is significant. Training is done through Monroe County or New York State. This training is certification and training, and the inhouse training is to keep those skills fresh.

Handout #7 – Honeoye Falls Fire Department Personnel Basic Certification Levels

Mr. Militello explained the last handout, those Members highlighted in green are active and the last page shows the average number of years of Membership retention. He pointed out that the average years of retention in the last five years has dropped to 2.01 years. He referred back to the certification list and the manpower needed, compare that to the ability to retain Members. With this in mind, there is serious concerns as to who will be Chief of the Department in ten years with the necessary knowledge.

Handout #8 – Roster Information: Historical Years of Service

Ms. Meisenzahl reviewed a handout she provided regarding the numbering systems for fire equipment which is setup by Monroe County. She explained that just by the number, fire personnel know what equipment and personnel are enroute or on scene.

Handout #9 – Battalion and department numbers

Mr. Tschiderer reviewed the next handout saying the top table is the same explanation, just different data points, as Honeoye Falls Fire Department. He added that it does paint a somewhat rosy picture because it does not list the qualifications of the individuals, it is just raw data of folks that chose to respond. He went on to review the average manpower response. He noted a significant decrease over the years. This is a statistical analysis; actual responses may be different but this is statistics on paper. The chart shows that as the overall staffing level has gone down, the EMT has stayed the same, so it skews the numbers making it look like more EMTs are responding when in reality it is the same long-term individuals. He noted that there is a mutual assistance agreement with Fisher's Fire Department to cover the hours 8:00 pm to 8:00 am for overnight EMS calls because of a number of unanswered EMS calls by Mendon Fire Department. The second sheet addresses vehicle purchase, sale and replacement costs. He said the District averages 38% return on investment.

Handout # 10 – MFD Cumulative Manpower on Apparatus by Incident Type

Page 2 – Vehicle Information

Ms. Meisenzahl asked if any of the Committee Members would like any other information from the Fire Departments. There was no request for more information.

She stated that over the next three weeks she will be drafting the narrative so there is cursory information to go with the data, watch for information coming out, may come back to the Fire Departments and ask for a different format or size page so we can gain consistency. For the next meeting come prepared to capture all of this together. After November we will be modeling. She went on to point out the changes that are occurring in the Fire Service in Monroe County. Because we border Livingston and Ontario, information will be provided on Fire Service in those counties also. When we get to the modeling, there will be a checklist for finances and moving personnel to give the benefits and what are the tradeoffs of doing something different than what we have now.

No one on Zoom had comments, and there was no Public Comment.

The next meeting is November 30, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.