

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
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Fire Services Review Special Committee Minutes—Special Meeting February 12, 2024

Members Present: Robert Tuneski (BoF); Susan Driscoll (RTM); Rob Brule (BoS); Mike Howley (Director, Fire Services); Mark Greczkowski (WAS Director of Operations); Todd Patton (Chief, Goshen Fire Co.)

Members Absent: Matthew Keatley (RTM); Steven Sinagra (Director, Emergency Management); Tom Martin (Captain, WFS) [RTM Public Protection & Safety Committee appointment tbd]

Also Present: Richard Muckle (BoS)

1. **Call to order:** Chair Tuneski called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. **Public comment:** None.
3. **Consideration of FSRSC's charge from the RTM (6/7/21):** Chair led discussion on what issues the FSRSC had started gathering information on before hiatus began in Feb. 2023, and what areas needed further research for presentation in the final report/recommendations. He noted that much progress had been made in the area of communications, with Director Howley working with Director Sinagra and WPD Chief Balestracci to acquire new radios and pagers, new programming to have all first responders' communicators on same frequency and considering the switch to the state's radio system. |

Howley suggested that the FSRSC look into a facilities/capital projects plan and a fleet management plan and take both out to 10 years rather than five. He estimated that he's halfway done with a staffing plan and would need a couple of months to add the extra projection years in those areas.

Brule suggested that the final report should convey that "we all want five stations" but allow for some flexibility. He suggested we consider mandatory training policies such as the longer you serve, the more training is required, and is interested in documenting our mutual aid plans—e.g., what are the current agreements, what is expected from Waterford, the impact on paid and volunteer firefighters.

Tuneski suggested members take a fresh look at a 2007 study, to consider what's still relevant or still undone since then, and to look for areas that might deserve annual review. General consensus on his summary of issues in the FSRSC pipeline: facilities 10-yr capital plan; fleet management 10-yr plan; staffing plans (volunteer and career, specialties such as marine and fire police, training, and succession planning); mutual aid plans; and the interrelationship of the five fire stations and contracted rescue services.

5. **Next meeting:** Tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 11, at 5:30p.m.
6. **Adjournment:** Motion by Brule; second by Driscoll to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Voice vote: Unanimous.

Submitted by

Susan Driscoll, FSRSC Secretary

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