

Dorset – Manchester Public Safety Workgroup
Minutes from January 20, 2014

The Workgroup was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM in East Dorset Fire Station.

Chairman Paul Carroccio called the meeting to order and called for a motion to approve the January 6, work group minutes.

Chief Bourn moved, seconded by Mike Oltedal to approve the January 6 meeting minutes.

General Discussion:

Chairman Carroccio then introduced Colonel Jim Baker to the group. Col. Baker stated that the towns of Dorset and Manchester were taking the right steps to work together to discuss regionalization of public safety services. Baker further stated that often the difficult part in the process is executing a plan based on the recommendations of a study. Difficulties include identity, communication, outside pressures etc. Col. Baker listed a recent collaboration between the New York towns of Cambridge and Greenwich to regionalize police services. Discussion ensued about State influences and general obstacles to the process.

Manchester Rescue Squad (MRS):

Ben Weiss, President of MRS and Mike Casey, COO of MRS were introduced and began a presentation about MRS. The presentation covered organizational structure, funding, expenses, regulations in the industry and the effect of insurance on the MRS. General discussion and questions ensued about MRS services and the new proposal to lease a new ambulance purchased by the Town of Manchester in relation to the recent MRS ambulance campaign.

East Dorset Fire Department:

Rob Gaiotti presented a brief presentation about the history, services, budget and organization of the East Dorset Fire Department and East Dorset Fire District. General discussion ensued about the operations.

Dorset Law Enforcement at current:

Rob Gaiotti presented a brief presentation about the law enforcement service provided to Dorset residents and how it has historically been a contract for services approach. Discussion ensued about the increase of property thefts in Dorset in recent years, and this issue being a driving factor for Dorset to review the approach to providing law enforcement services to residents.

The next meeting dates were set for **Wednesday February 5th at 7:00pm at the Dorset Fire Station 2788 Route 30 Dorset, VT and Wednesday February 19th at 7:00pm at the Manchester Public Safety Facility.**

Tour and adjournment:

Carroccio stated that the Workgroup planned to take a tour of the East Dorset Fire Station, that no official business would take place after the tour and that the meeting would adjourn at the end of the tour. Members toured the East Dorset Fire Station.

Individuals in attendance:

From Dorset, Chris Brooks, Mike Oltedal, Rob Gaiotti, Ralph Colin, Jack Stannard and Jean Kingston (Dorset Fire District), Chip Straub and Howard Towsley (East Dorset Fire District), Judy Collins, Jim Mirenda and Danny Pinsonault (Dorset residents and East Dorset Fire District), Bob and Joan Menson (Dorset residents).

From Manchester: Ivan Beattie, Lisa Souls, John O'Keefe, Paul Carroccio, William Brownlee, Philip Bourn (MFD), Chief Michael Hall and Sgt. Patrick Owens (Manchester Police Department). Sylvia Jolivette (Manchester resident). Also in attendance, Colonel/ Chief Jim Baker, Jim Sullivan (BCRC), Ben Weiss and Mike Casey (Manchester Rescue Squad), Andrew McKeever and Anna Borini (Manchester Journal).

Respectfully Submitted, Rob Gaiotti, Dorset Town Manager