Town of Bozrah
Public Safety Advisory Committee

The Town of Bozrah Public Safety Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday August 8, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Meeting Room of the Bozrah Town Hall.

MINUTES

1) **Call To Order/Attendance:** Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by First Selectman Pianka. Two committee members absent: Lang and Macfadyen. Macfadyen arrived at 7:42 P.M. Eight members of the public.

2) **Public Comment(s):** Ray Barber noted a commendable beginning and did not see the meeting posted in Town Hall, inquired about future postings.

3) **First Selectman - Introduce members and provide member contact information:** The committee membership introduced themselves with a brief background and member contact information was collected for distribution by the Secretary.

4) **First Selectman - Review the charge of the committee:**
   - Firefighting and emergency medical response are both issues
   - School security will be part of the committee to interface where appropriate with the Board of Education school security committee
   - This is a fact finding mission
   - Please put personalities aside
   - Should you be here?? Opt out if you think not
   - Must inform the members who have limited knowledge of the matter at hand. Many of us here have the benefit of earlier examination of the situation.
   - Meetings will be posted with agendas and minutes will be recorded and posted as with any other board or commission
   - Quorum number will be six (6)
   - Advise committee if you cannot make a meeting
   - Take notes
   - Utilize resources for information i.e. QV Dispatch, area towns experience, etc.
   - What will your work product be? One recommendation to be brought to public hearing or choices?
   - Discussion about Public Comment for future agendas resulted in Public Comment being removed from meeting opening but will be agenda item at meeting conclusion/end
-Briefly discussed formal job description, chain of command and disciplinary matters in the case of an employee or similar matters in the case of an outside contractor(s)

**NOTE:** Selectman/Committee Member Ballinger introduced email memo dated July 25, 2018 from Evelyn Brown **Subject:** Data For Fire Department (see attached). Copies were distributed to members and attending public requesting same. This will become part of the official minutes

5) **Elect/Appoint Chairperson:**
After some discussion amongst the members in attendance William Ballinger suggested Mary Elizabeth Lang (absent from attendance) as Chairperson. Committee members voted to conditionally appoint (pending acceptance) Mary Elizabeth Lang with one abstention by Earl Lathrop due to unfamiliarity with the nominee.

**MOTION** Ballinger/SECONDED Lavallee- PASSED with one abstention (Lathrop)

6) **Elect/Appoint Recording Secretary(s):**
**TABLED**-Pending further action
Due to no volunteer FS Pianka agreed to handle the recording in the interim

7) **Discuss member meeting availability and meeting schedule:**
Next two meetings scheduled for Tuesday August 14 and Thursday August 23 at 7PM At Maples Farm Homestead. FS Pianka to secure meeting location with the MFP Committee.

8) **Chairperson-open dialogue and approach plan ?:**
Pending acceptance by nominee Chair no formal action taken at this time

9) **Public Comment(s):**
Ray Barber: Opening and closing Public Comment should be maintained on the agenda Statistics can be manipulated Evaluate the information
Frank Driscoll: Can we get the qualifications list of the 37 members of the BVFD ??

10) **Adjourn:**
Meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Glenn S. Pianka
Howdy Bill,
I was distracted and not thinking things through at the meeting enough to make a comment, but, upon reflection...I think there are more than 2 data sets that should be compiled and available to defend the need for paid staff for the fire dept. I personally would have questions or concerns that all of the following would be helpful to know.

A. BVFD call response data

B. Dispatch data

C. Comparison of data on area towns or towns using different systems etc. And that should include some demographic data like size and budget and ownership of dept/vehicles etc...not just a list of paid/volunteer/etc

D. Ambulance billing data in terms of income, the split between town & FD, the ambulance purchases and what the fire dept has used the $ on...or what % of their operating budget the $ represents...some way to determine the need/value/use of the ambulance billing as part of the issue

E. Call data at large senior facilities

F. an options considered by the fire dept/ safety committee list ....maybe with pro & con columns next to each one.

G. A sample performance contract or document that covers service to town for an ambulance company if we were to turn that over to a service.

Items C & E seem to me to be the two that will be the most difficult but I have no real knowledge of how fast or difficult any of these categories would be.

I also feel that anyone appointed to the safety committee should publicly declare any associations they have with any fire company, ambulance company, emergency response organization, medical facility, security equipment company etc etc. ...and maybe which bias on the paid fire dept vote they are walking onto the committee with.

Is the safety committee also on the agenda for the Friday AM meeting or is that only budget?
-Ev Brown