

SUNAPEE BOARD OF FIREWARDS

Meeting Minutes

Safety Services Building – 9 Sargent Road

May 7, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Jake Paris, Fred Gallup

Also present: Town Manager Shannon Martinez, Fire Department Lieutenant/Public Information Officer Timothy White; Interim Fire Chief Matt Pollari; Selectboard Chair Anthony Dolan; Police Chief Neill Cobb

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Gallup called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. He thanked the individuals present for attending and presented his certificate of appointment as interim Chair of the Board of Firewards.

2. FILLING VACANT BOARD OF FIREWARDS POSITIONS

Mr. Gallup suggested using the normal method of advertising for appointed Town Committee/Board members, including posting the announcement on the Town website and the Fire Association Facebook page, with a deadline of May 21, 2026. As soon as two individuals are selected to fill the vacant positions, he will remove himself as interim Chair.

He and Mr. Paris discussed the procedure for interviewing potential candidates. They agreed that Mr. Pollari and Police Chief Cobb should be involved in the interviews. Mr. Gallup will create an interview schedule.

3. FILLING VACANT FIRE CHIEF POSITION

Mr. Gallup reported the Selectboard approved the job description for a Fire Chief at the May 4th meeting. He and Mr. Paris discussed how to obtain a well-rounded pool of applicants. Mr. Paris suggested partnering with the State to utilize its candidate pools, as well as meeting with Captain Burns at the New Hampshire Fire Academy to discuss parameters and request their assistance. Mr. Paris will arrange a meeting between himself, Mr. Gallup, and Captain Burns.

Mr. Gallup stressed the need for interaction between the Police and Fire Department. He suggested other members of the Fire Department might be included in the hiring process.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public agreed on the importance of departmental interaction during the selection process.

A member of the public suggested this was an opportunity for forward thinking and strategic planning for the Fire Department.

A member of the public suggested the Fireward positions would need to be filled first, as they would be part of the hiring process for the Fire Chief.

Chris Whitehouse suggested there be discussion on whether a moving package would be offered to a Fire Chief candidate from outside the area.

A member of the public spoke to the excellent response to a recent incident in Georges Mills harbor. Chief Cobb concurred.

Chief Cobb reported he anticipates having a car by the end of the month, which is later than originally reported.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026; however, it will probably be a non-public session to interview candidates.

By the power of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Haggeli
Recording Secretary