

Campton Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Work Session Minutes

November 4, 2022

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 2:30 pm Friday, November 4, 2022. Chair Sharon Davis, Selectman Mort Donahue, Selectman Craig Engel, Selectman Nik Coates, were present. Selectman Boynton was on zoom. Also present were Fire Chief Dan Defosses, Campton Deputy Fire Chief, Ian Halm, Campton Town Administrator Corey Davenport, and Minutes Recorder Natasha Egger

Call to Order: Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Thornton & Ellsworth CIP Discussion Prep

The Board went over the CIP of the Town of Thornton and Ellsworth. The topic of Thornton possibly closing its substation in Thornton was discussed. Chief Defosses explained that Engine 2 does not get used a lot in Thornton's substation. Deputy Fire Chief, Ian Halm explained that in all the years, they only had to utilize that substation a couple of times. Selectman Engel asked Chief Defosses why Thornton would close the substation when the Towns are growing. Conversation of discontinuation of Campton's substation was discussed and what the impact on the community would be if that station was closed. Chief Defosses said that the Campton Fire Department main campus would need to build two new bays for engines if the Campton substation was closed. There were concerns about insurance rates going up if the substations were to be discontinued. Chief Defosses mentioned if Thornton discontinues the use of engine 4, then Campton should purchase engine 3 in 2025. If a fourth engine was left on the schedule, Chief Defosses would recommend a smaller, cheaper engine.

Committee Updates, Board Concerns, and Directives

The Town of Campton, Ellsworth, and Thornton is part of what is called the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). An IGA is an agreement that involves or is made between two or more governments in cooperation to solve problems of mutual concern. Fire Department abides by what is called an ISO Rating. An ISO rating is a measure of a fire department's ability to serve its community. The score looks at areas such as emergency communications, water supply, and pressure, firefighter training, and much more.

Chief Defosses explained that he has looked into the ISO regulations regarding how many trucks and hours are required to keep the ISO Ratings. Selectman Coates asked if Thornton can close their substation under the IGA without the consent of the two other towns' approval. Selectman Coates and Selectman Boynton asked Corey to call the Town Lawyer Sean Tanguay to check into this. Selectman Engel wanted to know what are Thornton's goals, and what is their Plan B in the long run.

Chair Davis, decided to do an informal vote on who would like to see the Campton or Thornton substation stay open, Selectman Donahue, Selectman Engel, and Chair Davis all said yes to keeping them open. Selectman Coates and Selectman Boynton are open to ideas associated with the closing of the stations but with a backup plan that will ensure that it does not affect the community in a negative way. At this time, no selectmen were in favor of closing either substation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natasha Egger
Minutes Recorder