

**LYNDEBOROUGH Fire Truck Purchasing Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 24, 2023**  
*Final*

**I. Call to Order:**

Town Administrator Boland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Introduction of Members Present:**

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Mark Chamberlain, Capital Improvement Committee Member Karen Grybko, Budget Committee Member Geoff Allan (via phone), Fire Chief Brian Smith, Resident James Preftakes, Resident Richard Herfurth and ex-officio member Town Administrator Russ Boland

**Public & Media Present:** None

**III. Appointments:**

**IV. Community Forum and Public Comment:**

**V. Decision Making Actions:**

**a. Old/Tabled Business:**

**b. New Business:**

T/A Boland read the charge from the Board of Selectmen to the committee:

On Wednesday, April 19, 2023, the Lyndeborough Board of Selectmen approved the formation of the Fire Truck Purchasing Study Committee. The committee shall consist of the Fire Chief Smith, Capital Improvement Committee Member Karen Grybko, Budget Committee Member Geoff Allan, Selectman Mark Chamberlain, Resident Richard Herfurth, Resident Jim Preftakes and Town Administrator Russ Boland as an ex-officio member. The Committee shall present a report to the Board of Selectmen in July 2023.

The Committee shall study future purchases of Fire Apparatus, including but not limited to, replacing the existing trucks with new or used vehicles and the benefits of both, taking into consideration cost, reliability, safety advancements, environmental factors, and any other considerations deemed relevant by the Board of Selectmen that are within the scope of this study.

T/A Boland supplied the Committee with the current balances in the Capital Improvement Plan for the replacement of fire trucks. (see attached MS-9 for 3/31/2023) T/A Boland advised the committee their conclusions will be important in the building of future allocations for the Capital Improvement Plan for fire truck replacement.

Possible outcomes of the committee include recommending the purchase of new fire trucks, purchasing used fire trucks or continuing to save for a new truck and explore the

availability of a used trucks just prior to committing to a new truck purchase. The Committee agreed there may be additional options that might develop as the committee's work moves forward.

The committee agreed Mark Chamberlain will serve as Chairman of the Committee and Fire Chief Brian Smith will serve as Vice Chair.

Karen Grybko asked about used fire trucks in regards to the size limitations of the current station. Fire Chief Smith advised the current station does present challenges due to the limited size of the building and this will reduce the number of used trucks that could be purchased. Chief Smith also added the size of the station also limits the design options when purchasing a new truck.

Jim Preftakes asked about the condition of the recently purchased used truck. The committee and Chief Smith reported the truck is in excellent condition but it is twenty-five years old.

Chairman Chamberlain stated he would like the Committee to review leasing fire trucks vs. purchasing fire trucks with a total payment at purchase. Chairman Chamberlain went on to state he believes paying for equipment in total at the time of purchase is the correct way to go but would like all options explored including leasing.

Karen Grybko asked about the availability of Lyndeborough Central School as a possible future fire station. Geoff Allan advised the Committee the School District continues to explore future building needs but there are no concrete plans at the present moment.

The Committee had a general conversation about making the Selectmen agents to expend the Capital Improvement account for fire trucks. The Committee discussed the need to be able to move quickly in the case of locating an appropriate used fire truck or having an existing truck repaired. Under the current situation such an expenditure requires Town Meeting approval, which could result in a substantial delay and losing the purchase of the used truck or severely delaying repairing an existing truck. One option discussed was having the authority of the Selectmen to be agents to expend sunset before each Town Meeting. This would limit the time Selectmen had the authority to expend funds and would require reauthorization by each Town Meeting to continue the Selectmen as agents to expend.

The Committee had a general discussion about the life expectancy of fire trucks, agreeing thirty years is about all we can expect. The discussion included the cost of pump repairs as the truck ages and the reliability factor of older fire apparatus.

Because it takes two years to receive a new truck once ordered, a hybrid approach of combining one year of looking for used vehicles followed by ordering a new vehicle two years before the scheduled replacement, if we cannot find a used truck, was discussed.

Jim Preftakes asked if the Committee should have home work before the next meeting. The Committee agreed to review the minutes of this meeting and to explore used fire truck dealers on the internet. The next meeting will be held in approximately three weeks and will be coordinated by T/A Boland.

**c. Items not on Agenda: None**

**VI. Information Items Requiring No Discussion: None**

**VII. Adjournment:**

**Vote: James Preftakes made motion seconded by Richard Herfurth to adjourn at 8:07 pm.  
Passed 6-0**

All scheduled items having been addressed, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Next regular meeting: TBD at Citizens' Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Russ Boland, Transcriber

Chairman Chamberlain \_\_\_\_\_

Vice Chairman Smith \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Grybko \_\_\_\_\_

Geoff Allan \_\_\_\_\_

Richard Herfurth \_\_\_\_\_

James Preftakes \_\_\_\_\_