

#18 RYE FIRE DEPARTMENT ORDINANCE
Adopted Article 13, March 1972 Town Meeting
Revised Article 37, March 17, 1990 Town Meeting
Rescinded Article 25, March 14, 2017 Town Meeting

Be it ordained by the voters of the Town of Rye in Town Meeting assembled that a department to be known as the Rye Fire Department is hereby created. It shall be governed by this revised ordinance and the Statutes of the State of New Hampshire, Chapter 154 RSA.

Article 1. OFFICERS

Section 1. The Board of Firewards shall consist of the Chief, Assistant Chief and next senior officer of the Department.

Section 2. The Department shall consist of a Chief, Assistant Chief and such other officers as the wards may deem necessary for the effective operation of the Department.

Section 3. The Chief Fireward shall be appointed by the Selectmen for an indefinite period, and his tenure shall depend on his good conduct and efficiency. He shall be technically qualified by training or experience, and must have the ability to command men and hold their respect and confidence. He may be removed only for just cause and after a public hearing. The Assistant Chief shall be appointed by the Selectmen upon recommendation of the Chief Fireward and shall serve a like tenure as the Chief.

Section 4. The Chief Fireward shall be held accountable to the Selectmen only, and shall make written and verbal reports thereto as they may require. All other department and company officers shall be accountable to the Chief only and shall be appointed by the Chief after passing competitive examinations. Such officers may be removed for just cause and after a public hearing.

Article II. DUTIES OF THE CHIEF

Section 1. The Chief shall be responsible for the enforcement of the rules and regulations governing the Department and for the personnel, morale and general efficiency of the Department.

Section 2. The Chief shall determine the number and kind of companies of which the Department is to be composed and shall determine the response of such companies to alarms.

Article II (continued)

Section 3. The Chief is hereby required to assist the proper authorities in suppressing the crime of arson by investigating, or causing to be investigated, the cause, origin and circumstances of all fires.

Section 4. The Chief is hereby empowered to enter any and all buildings and premises at any reasonable hour for the purpose of making inspections and to serve written notice upon the owner or occupant to abate, within a specified time, any and all fire hazards that may be found.

Section 5. The Chief shall keep, or cause to be kept, complete records of all fires, inspections, apparatus and minor equipment, personnel and other information about the work of the Department.

Section 6. The Chief shall make a complete annual report to the Selectmen within one month after the close of the fiscal year.

Article III. DUTIES OF OTHER OFFICERS

Section 1. In the absence of the Chief, the Assistant Chief, or in his absence, the Senior Officer present shall command the Department.

Section 2. Training Officers shall at least once a month conduct suitable drills or instruction in the operation and handling of equipment and all matters generally considered essential to good firemanship, safety of life and property from fire.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the Department shall consist of such permanent fireman as shall be appointed by the Selectmen upon recommendation of the Chief Fireward and such other members as may be appointed by the Chief and approved by the Wards. They shall be able-bodied citizens. Determination of whether candidates for appointment are able-bodied shall be made by the Chief, after a physical examination has been made in a manner approved by the Wards.

Section 2. Any member of the Department may be suspended or discharged from the Department by the Chief at any time he may deem such action necessary for the good of the Department. On written request of such member, he shall be given a public hearing before the Firewards and the Selectmen on charges brought by the Chief.

Article V. EQUIPMENT

Section 1. The Department shall be equipped with such apparatus and other equipment as may be required from time to time to maintain its efficiency and properly protect life and property from fire.

Article V. (continued)

Section 2. Recommendations of apparatus and equipment needed shall be made by the Chief, to meet or exceed the recommendations of the Insurance Services Office of New Hampshire or its successors. Apparatus shall meet or exceed pamphlet nineteen (19) of National Fire Protection Association. Apparatus and Equipment shall be purchased in such a manner as may be designated by the Selectmen.

Section 3. No person shall enter any place where fire apparatus is housed or handle any apparatus or equipment belonging to the Department unless accompanied by, or having special permission of an officer or authorized member of the Department.

Section 4. The Town of Rye is hereby authorized to enter into agreements or contracts with nearby incorporated communities or governing bodies of other organizations with fire protection or to establish a mutual aid system.

Article VI. GENERAL

Section 1. Each member of the Department shall be issued a badge designating his rank, and proper protective equipment.

Section 2. No person shall park any vehicle or otherwise cause any obstruction to be placed within twenty feet of the entrance to any fire station or other place where fire apparatus is stored, or within fifteen feet of any fire hydrant.

Section 3. No unauthorized person with any vehicle shall follow within five hundred feet of any apparatus belonging to the Department responding to an alarm, nor park any vehicle within five hundred feet of a fire.

Section 4. Each member of the Department who responds to a fire call shall receive compensation for his services. Standards for compensation shall be established by the Firewards.

Article VII. ENFORCEMENT

Section 1. Any person violating the provisions of Article V, Section 3; and Article VI, Sections 2 and 3, shall upon conviction pay a fine of not less than ten dollars or more than fifty dollars for each offense.

Section 2. Any officers or senior members of the Department are hereby given the necessary special police powers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance.

This revised ordinance, upon approval at Town Meeting 1972, shall take effect on April 1, 1972.

