

# East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre  
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

A wise person once said, "Be careful what you wish for," and in the case of a fire engine, "You might get it." The members of the East Andover Fire Precinct have voted to allow the Commissioners to purchase a fire engine.

The mechanics of removing capitol reserve funds and borrowing money are not handled by the members of the fire department. Thank goodness that chore is the responsibility of the Commissioners and the precinct Treasurer.

You may rest assured your fire fighters are very brave and skilled at life safety. Heat, smoke, and fire are no match for our fire team. But the responsibility of dealing with money and the associated paperwork strikes fear in even the most seasoned firefighter.

As we have stated throughout the search for a new engine, we will very likely purchase a truck that was manufactured in an assembly-line style. It is more common to design and build a custom, one-of-a-kind truck. The drawback for us is that the custom machine is more expensive to build. It is our goal to find a pre-manufactured or "program" truck that meets the requirements of our department.

A major consideration of a program truck is that by building several at a time, the manufacturing costs go down. For us these cost savings have been the opportunity that has allowed us the ability to purchase a truck within our

budget. We intend to purchase a truck that will hold 1,000 gallons of water with at least a 1,200 gallon per minute pump. The bed must hold 2,000 feet of four-inch hose with at least three pre-connected attack lines. There must be sufficient space in easily-accessible compartments to hold all the equipment we must carry. The government has a list of equipment that we must have as well, but that is not optional and comes with the truck.

Above all else, it must be red! I must admit that the precinct meeting this year was originally a shock to my confidence. The genuine opposition from some to the new truck was not expected. Shame on me.

After the meeting was over, several who opposed the purchase offered their congratulations on the affirmative vote. They wanted us to be clear that they very much supported the work of the fire department but had concerns with spending money in this economy. We very much understand and can live with that. This economy is the worst in my lifetime, and we are challenged to make the right choices with the tax dollars we have.

We had a truck committee meeting after the precinct meeting was over and most had gone home. I think everyone at the meeting felt the weight and additional responsibility to make sure we do our job well and get the best truck for the money.

## Andover/Proctor Liason Committee

By Chuck Will  
Proctor Academy

The Andover-Proctor Academy Liason Committee met at the Andover Town Hall at 7:30 PM on March 29. Representing the town were Bill Bardley, Vicky Mishcon, John Cotton, Laurie Ferguson, and Don Gould. Representing Proctor were Karl Methven, Peter Southworth, Alex Estin, Chuck Will, and Mike Henriques.

As Moderator, Mike called the meeting to order and the minutes from the fall meeting were approved. Mike thanked Vicky for her leadership at this year's Town Meeting and expressed his desire for greater representation for Proctor, (which was on vacation during this year's meeting.)

Mike also noted Proctor's gratitude for the Andover Rescue Squad and its services to the community over the past year. Vicky requested Proctor representation at the next Selectmen's meeting to explore the new Rescue Service model.

Mike mentioned that the former Blackwater Ski Shop has been purchased by a trustee of the school and is being renovated possibly to serve as a community-minded business/coffee shop. Discussion of student foot traffic at the junction of Main and Lawrence Streets raised the possibility of a flash-

ing beacon at that site. Chuck will explore this matter with the Bureau of Traffic. The possibility of decreasing the speed limit to 20 MPH in the school zone was also discussed.

Don presented a School Board report citing contributions by Proctor students and teachers. Six students volunteered as teacher aides during Proctor's Project Period, March 22 through 26. A damaged flagpole was repaired by Proctor Maintenance staff; 15 AE/MS students participated in a Nordic ski program with Proctor's team; AE/MS students skated weekly at Teddy Maloney Rink; and Proctor teachers continue to offer SHARE Day workshops. Proctor students will help dig a new AE/MS garden. Eight students from AE/MS have been offered admission to Proctor for 2010-11, which is 100% of those who applied.

The next Liaison Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 25, at Proctor's dining hall.

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