PREFACE

In early 2022, HFFD Chief Cory Trewer and (then) MEND Chief Peter Kester, met with Mendon Town Supervisor John Moffitt, to express an emergent need for membership in both Departments. They conveyed that active membership rosters in both Departments continue on a downward trajectory while their respective call volumes trend upward. As documented in Report data sets and graphics, this pattern is decades in-the-making; however, the Chiefs’ impressed they have reached a critical point in Department initiatives to meet community expectations and to ensure a safe working environment for Department volunteers who answer emergency calls.

Both Departments are vested in providing Emergency Services within our community as demonstrated by each across 100+ years of dedicated response to emergency calls. The Departments have evolved to meet the ever-growing demand for training requirements and the expansion of “expected” call types as our community landscape becomes less rural and more suburban while, at the same time, the reality associated with our demographic profile brings fewer volunteers to Department ranks.

Considering this message from the Department Chiefs, the Mendon Town Board established a *Citizens Advisory Committee to consider and recommend sustainable Fire Service practices within the Town of Mendon together with a supportive jurisdictional authority* *(Resolution 22-150)*, at their June 13, 2022 meeting.

The chapters within this Report: outline the governance of Fire Protection within the Town; define Department operations and resources cross-referenced with a Town-wide needs assessment; and, consider national, state, regional and local trends affecting the delivery of Fire Protection. As our community grows, as emerging opportunities present, and/or as administrative requirements evolve, the Committee recommends a governance model with authority to sustain local Fire Protection capacity, and whose single focus is the continuity of Emergency Services.

2.6.23