

Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2019

Present: Commissioner Charles Longo
Commissioner John Cafazzo
Commissioner Richard Quagliaroli
Commissioner James Dutton
Commissioner Arnold Higgins

Absent: Commissioner Gilbert Spencer

Others: Deputy Chief Bruce Motowidlak
Deputy Chief David Thurz
Firefighter Brian Lombardo

Commissioner Longo called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Public Comment: None

Chief's Report: Chief Thurz reported on the following items:

- The adopted By-Laws have been distributed to each company, and the Captains have been instructed to distribute to the members at their next company drills.
- Engine 11 had an engine failure while responding to an incident on February 10th. Chief Thurz asked Deputy Chief Motowidlak to provide an overview of what occurred. Deputy Chief Motowidlak stated that Vehicle Maintenance believed there was a head gasket failure. The apparatus is being repaired by Five Star, and based on further investigation it appears that one of the sleeves in the cylinder had dropped. The engine is in the process of being rebuilt. Commission Longo inquired if this was a manufacturing problem, and if this issue was raised to the engine manufacturer? Deputy Chief Motowidlak noted that the local Cummings dealer was brought in to consult, and assist with the repair, but the failure is not a known problem.
- The Town's budget is entering its final weeks. The overall goal is for a no mil increase. Final adoption of the FY'2019-20 budget is scheduled for March 21, 2019.
- The Department's unit year will end at the end of the month, and the second disbursement will be paid out. In addition a review of those that qualify for the tax abatement will be completed. The Commission was advised that at the State level a bill is being proposed to increase the tax abatement from \$1,000 to \$1,500. However, if the bill passes it does not mean Glastonbury will be required to increase the offering. That would need Town Council approval. The objective of the bill is to help increase recruitment of volunteers to serve their communities.
- Storage Shed for Station 4 has been purchased. The expected delivery is approximately four weeks.

- Assistant Chief David Thurz will represent the Chief at the next Fire Commission meeting, as Chief Thurz will be attending the Connecticut Fire Service Hall of Fame Dinner.
- From April 24th to April 26th Chief Thurz will be attending the Congressional Fire Service Institute Summit in Washington, DC. Part of the trip will include a visit to Capitol Hill and meetings with the Connecticut delegation and their staff.
- Reviewed the Department's monthly expenditures

Committee Reports: None

Old Business:

- Chief Thurz reported that there was one applicant for the open Deputy Chief position. Chief Thurz will be setting up an oral interview with three out of town fire service professionals. A second interview with the candidate will be held with the Chief and one member of the Fire Commission.
- Chief Thurz reported that the change orders for the new engine have been approved, and that the sign off will be forwarded to the manufacturer to begin production. Total cost of the change orders was \$14K, bringing the total cost of the engine to \$554K. The three biggest expense items, which equaled \$10K, were a manual deck gun, a man-less monitor and an allowance for mounting brackets. Delivery is estimated to be sometime in either October or November of 2019. Commissioner Longo inquired about the vehicle's double channel frame, as opposed to single channel and the concern regarding roadway debris. Chief Thurz reported that with the hot dipped galvanized frame channels that the manufacturer does not anticipate this to be a problem. The double channel only strengthens the integrity of the apparatus.
- Commissioner Longo inquired about the on-going building upgrades to Stations 1 and 2. Chief Thurz reported that a meeting with the architect, facilities, Deputy Chief Motowidlak and Captains Cody and Yacka is scheduled for March 11th regarding the bathrooms and kitchen. The painting and tiling work at Station 1 is completed. The Facilities Department is in the process of obtaining bids to repair the roof leaks at Station 2. The glass in the overhead doors at Station 1 will be converted to tempered glass.
- Commissioner Longo asked for the status of the preventive maintenance on the apparatus. Chief Thurz advised that the meeting with Shipman's Fire Equipment was cancelled, as he was stranded out of state due to the weather. A rescheduled meeting will occur on March 13th. The purpose of the meeting is to review the various work performed on the apparatus, whether it was required or not, the quality and the invoices. Chief Thurz also reported that he is looking to improve communications with Vehicle Maintenance by having Deputy Chief Motowidlak as the single point of contact for any work to be performed. Commissioner Dutton inquired about the invoices being emailed for review.

New Business:

- Chief Thurz informed the Commission about Connecticut Fire Summit 2025. The concept was developed by the Joint Fire Service Council, which Chief Thurz sits on for the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. The intent is to establish a plan for the future of the Connecticut Fire Service. Areas of topics will include the potential for regionalization, regional fire schools, recruitment and retention. The working group of the summit sent a survey to every fire chief in the state, and Chief Thurz hopes members will take advantage of the opportunity to weigh in and help develop the road map for the future.
- Commissioner Longo asked about the budget, and if the Department would be required to make any reductions? He further asked if reductions were required, which accounts would be impacted. Chief Thurz advised that he has not been asked to make any reductions as of yet, and would need to look further based on future needs of the department.
- Commissioner Higgins raised the issue about fire hydrants needing to be cleared on town own property, in particular a hydrant on Welles Street near the senior housing complex. Chief Thurz advised that Parks and Recreation is responsible for clearing the hydrants on town owned property. Based on the amount of snow fall from last storm the Chief did not see any issues. Chief Thurz advised that when there was excessive snow fall in the past that both Parks and Highway Departments work in clearing strategically located hydrants. However, Chief Thurz would relay Commissioner Higgins' concern to Greg Foran.


Approval of Minutes: Approval of the February minutes was made by Commissioner Cafazzo and seconded by Commissioner Longo. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondences:

- None

Next Regular Meeting: April 4, 2019 at Company 1, 2825 Main Street, 6:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: Commissioner Quagliaroli made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Dutton seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.


Deborah Torres
Recording Secretary

- c: Fire Commission (6)
- Fire Chiefs (3)
- Fire Captains (4)
- Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager
- Chris Siwy, Fire Marshal
- Mary Visone, Purchasing Agent
- Robert DiBella, Civil Preparedness