

Board of Fire Commissioners

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2019

Present: Commissioner Charles Longo - Chairman
Commissioner John Cafazzo – Vice Chairman
Commissioner Richard Quagliaroli - Secretary
Commissioner Arnold Higgins
Commissioner Gilbert Spencer

Absent: Commissioner James Dutton

Others: Assistant Chief David Thurz
Deputy Chief Bruce Motowidlak

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

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Longo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Cafazzo made the motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Higgins. Motion passed, with Commissioner Spencer abstaining since he was not present at the April meeting.

Public Comment: None

Chief's Report:

Chief Thurz reported on the following items:

- Captain Cody advised that the following members have successfully completed their probationary period and recommended that they be placed on permanent status – Nicholas Duva, Aliza Sutton and Zachary Wasielek. Commissioner Longo made a motion to accept Captain Cody's recommendation, which was seconded by Commissioner Spencer. The motion passed unanimously
- The second installment of the unit pay was paid out in April. Total payout was reported to be approximately \$101,332.00, with an estimated remaining balance of \$7,500.
- The motor for Engine 32 experienced a mechanical failure in April. It was determined to be an issue with the motor's freeze plug. The repair to the motor was made by Shipman Fire Equipment, as they had recently replaced the motor's head gasket earlier in the year and some of the work was warranted. Commissioner Longo inquired if there were any invoices to review regarding the repairs.
- The contract for Station 4's new engine has been executed. The chassis is expected to be delivered to Marion's facility sometime this summer, with a delivery to Glastonbury tentatively scheduled for sometime this fall.

- A letter of intent was issued to Lake Assault Boats. The Department will be purchasing a 23' landing craft based on a GSA contract. The Department is working with Lake Assault's project engineer on the boat's design. Delivery is anticipated by October 2019.
- Legislation has been proposed, and believed to have passed at the State Capitol that would increase the tax abatement amount from \$1,000 to \$1,500 annually. However, it is up to the individual municipality to decide if they would want to implement such an increase. This will need to be reviewed with the Town Manager, and would require Town Council approval to amend the current Town ordinance.
- Reviewed the Department's expenditures for the months of April and May.

Committee Reports:

- NONE

Old Business:

- Station 2 roof update – Facilities obtained quotes to make the necessary repairs to Station 2's roof. Chief Thurz reported that the work was recently completed by Naek Construction. Chief Thurz provided Commission members with photos, and an explanation of the work that had been completed. Chief Thurz reported that the overall condition of the roof's shingles appear to be in good condition. He went on to advised how the pitch to the roof was changed to divert the water, along with the installation of new ice and water shield. While the redesign will hopefully eliminate any future water penetration, if there still is water coming into the building the removal of the second floor south wall window may need to be removed.

The next step is to repair the interior ceilings that sustained water damage in the various rooms throughout the apparatus bay. Commissioner Longo asked if Facilities factored the possibility of replacing the entire roof, and if so what would the cost be. Chief Thurz reiterated that the existing shingles appear to be in good condition and that there does not appear to be a need to replace the roof.

- Station 1 and 2 building modification updates – Chief Thurz met with the architect and the contractor (Naek Construction) regarding the bathrooms renovations at Stations 1 and 2. The architect is finalizing the drawings after consulting with the mechanical contractors. The goal is for work to begin at Station 1 in July, followed by the renovations of the men's bathroom at Station 2 in August. Chief Thurz was opposed to having the restrooms at both stations closed simultaneously. Chief Thurz advised that Captains have reviewed the drawings and will be involved in the finish color selections. As for the kitchen upgrades at Station 1, Chief Thurz reported that Facilities staff will be responsible for the necessary work.
- Deputy Chief's position update – The sole candidate for the position withdrew his application. Chief Thurz recommended that the position be reposted with a modification that would allow any member that had previously served as either a Deputy Chief, Captain or Lieutenant, with the appropriate length of service be eligible. Chief Thurz advised that the job description had not changed. The position will be reposted until July 9th. If there are no applicants, then Chief Thurz recommended that a working group be established to consider what other alternatives may exist. Commissioner Spencer

raised the question about hiring a full time Fire Administrator. Commissioner Cafazzo stated that the Fire Chief is responsible for the administration of the department, and felt that this was not necessary.

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to approve the Chief's recommendation to repost until July 9th, which was seconded by Commissioner Longo. The motion passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Longo inquired about a comment that Commissioner Dutton raised at a previous Commission meeting pertaining to the Rotary Club possibly assisting with cleaning up the training facility. Assistant Chief Thurz mentioned that there is an Eagle Scout, who is also a fire cadet that has presented a proposal to construct a 20' x 30' pavilion for the Department. The Eagle Scout will need assistance, both financially and in erecting the pavilion and has put him in contact with the Rotary Club. As part of the project, there will also be flag pole erected on the site, which would incorporate the dedication stone that was purchased in 2005.
- Commissioner Longo inquired if oil sampling was being conducted on the apparatus. Chief Thurz advised that the fleet manager has not implemented the testing. However, Deputy Chief Motowidlak reported that oil samples on Engines 11 and 32 have been completed after the repairs were made.
- Commissioner Longo inquired about the status of Station 2's former service truck. Chief Thurz noted that he has spoken to the fleet manager about repurposing the vehicle as a forestry vehicle at Station 4 and to replace the current 1977 Dodge pick-up. Chief Thurz advised that an inexpensive flatbed could be purchased. However, before any decision was made he would review with Commissioner Longo and the fleet manager.

New Business:

- Commissioner Spencer inquired about a swearing in ceremony for the new members. Chief Thurz advised that his intention was to hold a swearing in ceremony once the Deputy Chief's position was filled and other subsequent promotions. However, given the summer months a swearing in ceremony for the Assistant Chief and the new members would take place in September.

Communications:

- None

Correspondences:

- None

Next Regular Meeting: Based on the first Thursday of July being the 4th, the Commission elected not to hold a meeting. Therefore, the next scheduled regular meeting would be August 1, 2019, 6:30 PM at Station 1.

Meeting Adjourned: Commissioner Cafazzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Longo seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Deborah Torres

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