

Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2019

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

Others: Assistant Chief David Thurz
Lieutenant Paul Kehoe

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2019 meeting was made by Commissioner Cafazzo, and seconded by Commissioner Longo. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Chief's Report:

Chief Thurz reported on the following items:

- The Recruitment Committee interviewed six candidates. Five of the candidates will move on to the next phase of the process. The one candidate that will not move forward will be attending school out of state, and would not be returning home on weekends. The next phase of the process will be the physical and work skills assessment.
- Commissioners were advised that Capital Improvement Projects, Capital Outlay and operating budget preparation would need to take place within the October time frame.
- Roof leak at Station 2 – based on a recent rain storm a water leak was observed in the Captain's office. Facilities had identified some additional areas where water was penetrating into the building and made the necessary repairs. They will continue to check the station, especially after heavy rain events for any additional water leaks. Commissioner Longo asked if they have considered replacing the whole roof since more leaks were found. Chief Thurz replied that they will not be replacing the whole roof and will continue to look and make repairs as necessary. Commissioner Longo asked if any mold remediation had started. Chief Thurz replied that to the best of his knowledge any required remediation had already taken place.
- Deputy Chief Motowidlak will be attending Fire Rescue International in Atlanta next week. The cost of the conference was being covered through a grant that the Department

received through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association.

- On July 31, 2019 the Chief attended a meeting in King of Prussia, PA with the State Fire Administrator and a couple of other Fire Chiefs as part of the CT Fire Summit 2025. The meeting was to learn from the Pennsylvania delegation the challenges that they face with recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters, as well as to identify changes in today's fire service, and how best Connecticut may address its issues.
- Fire Cadet Camp – Every year the Department sends at least two fire cadets to the Connecticut Fire Academy as part of the Introduction to the Fire Service training, a week long, live in program for young adults. One cadet completed the introductory program on July 20th, with a second cadet participating in the advance program next week.
- Will be out of state from August 12th to the 17th with Assistant Chief Thurz assuming his responsibilities.
- Reviewed the Department's monthly expenditures for June and July.

Committee Reports:

- NONE

Old Business:

- Fire Station renovation updates – Station 1 and 2 bathroom colors have been selected, with a quote received for the work at Station 2. Station 2's bathroom will be started first followed by Station 1. Chief Thurz needs to review the quote for Station 2's bathroom with the Facilities manager. Some of the kitchen appliances for Station 1 have arrived. Chief Thurz met with the Facilities Manager on July 30th to review proposed improvements for Stations 3 and 4.
- Deputy Chief's position update – Bernard Dennler Jr. has applied for the position of Deputy Chief. The next step will be to set up an interview with the candidate in the coming weeks. The panel will consist of three Commissioners and Chief Thurz. Commissioner Dutton brought up that the candidate does not reside in town. Chief Thurz informed the Commission that that the candidate has been a member of the Department for over 40 years, that he meets the initial requirements for the position, is an active member who continues to maintain the necessary training and fire units and that residency was not a requirement. The candidate will be required to obtain the necessary certification requirements within 18 months of the appointment. Commissioner Longo was disappointed that more applicants did not apply.
- New Fire Engine update – Cab and chassis should be delivered to the factory by September. The manufacturer will start building the body after Labor Day and weekly progress photos will be posted to the manufacturer's website.
- New Boat update – Work is expected to start the first week of August with metal being cut. Once in production the manufacturer is supposed to provide weekly updates and photos of the progress. Delivery time should be sometime in either late September or early October. Commissioner Dutton raised the question about relocating the existing Marine 1 to Station 2 and then moving the existing Zodiac to Station 4. His concern is

the ability to access Diamond Lake, Eastbury Pool or the Manchester Reservoir with the larger Zodiac boat. Chief Thurz reiterated his concerns with operation and personnel safety with the existing Zodiac being used on the Connecticut River. By relocating the existing Marine 1 to Station 2 it will provide a safer operating vessel that is appropriately equipped with the necessary emergency warning lights and equipment. While Commissioner Dutton noted that the existing boat at Station 4 could be larger and periodically loses air, Chief Thurz reminded the Commission that the larger Zodiac can also be used along Point Road where the larger vessels cannot access.

- A Department swearing in ceremony will be held Wednesday, September 18th 7:00 p.m. at the Riverfront Community Center.

New Business:

- Commissioner Dutton inquired about training availability for the new email system. Chief Thurz advised that there would be individuals that could assist him with getting access.

Correspondences:

- Commissioner Quagliaroli reported that the Commission received a packet from Mr. C. J. Mozzochi PhD regarding various letters pertaining to a Police Department matter. There was no further discussion.

Next Regular Meeting: The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on September 5, 2019 at Company 1, 2825 Main Street, 6:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: Commissioner Dutton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Higgins seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.



Deborah Torres
Recording Secretary

- cc: 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