

Board of Fire Commissioners

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

December 5, 2019

Note: The Special Meeting was due to a change in location as Station 1 had on-going construction. The Special Meeting was held at Station 3.

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

Others: Chief Michael Thurz  
Assistant Chief David Thurz  
Deputy Chief Bruce Motowidlak  
Deputy Chief Bernard Dennler Jr.

Commissioner Longo called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM to accommodate Chief Thurz's need to attend another meeting that evening out of town.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the November minutes was called by Commissioner Longo. A motion was made by Commissioner Cafazzo to accept was made but objected by Commissioner Higgins. Commissioner Higgins objection was based on clerical errors. It was discovered that the minutes provided and previously filed was a draft and submitted in error. Commissioner Longo withdrew the motion and noted that the approval would be tabled until next month's meeting.

**Public Comment:** None

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

- Over the past month the Department responded to three structure fires; Evergreen Lane, Salem Court and Littel Acres Road. The Evergreen Lane and Littel Acres road fires were essentially confined to the room of origin. The Salem Court fire resulted in a fatality.
- Based on the last Strategic Planning Committee meeting a revision was made to the Department's Capital Improvement Program as it relates to apparatus. The committee was in favor of changing the priority of replacing the 1987 tanker in exchange for two Rescue/Pumpers. Commissioner Cafazzo inquired about the decision of two rescue pumpers. Chief Thurz replied that the objective would be to replace the two existing heavy rescue vehicles (Rescues 14 and 33) and the retirement of the existing reserve engine (Engine 61). The current Engine 12 would be reassigned at the Department's reserve apparatus. Apparatus replacement is second on the Department's list. The priority for next year will be the purchase of 120 self-contained breathing apparatus bottles.
- While in Florida attending the International Association of Fire Chiefs VCOS conference met with a representative from FEMA to review the Department's 2018 Assistance to Fire Act Grant application. The Chief noted that the application made it through post peer

review and just missed being awarded. The Chief was going to contact FEMA's Region 1 grant coordinator to see if he can get more clarity into the reason for the denial. In the meantime, the 2019 Assistance to Fire Act Grant application will be opening soon and is considering reapplying again for new self-contained breathing apparatus.

- A Department wide email was sent to members to solicit training ideas for 2020. To date approximately a dozen responses had been received.
- Annual hose testing had been completed. The Department will need to replace some hose that is no longer NFPA compliant; this hose was manufactured prior to 1989. Assistant Chief Thurz estimated 2,500 feet 3 ½" hose did not pass or was not tested due to age. A determination will need to be made as to how much actual hose will need to be replaced. Approximately 1,000 feet of 5" supply hose failed and will need to be replaced.
- Review of Department's monthly expenditures

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Commissioner Quagliaroli further elaborated on the Strategic Planning Committee meeting. Discussion centered around the need to move the replacement of the Tanker out a couple of years and focus on replacing the two heavy Rescues with Rescue/Pumpers. The next meeting is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM with a focus on buildings.

#### **Old Business:**

- Fire Station renovation updates
  - a) Station 1 kitchen update
    - Painting contractor to begin on 12/5/19.
    - Cabinet install to begin sometime the week of 12/9/19.
- Contractor has applied for a building permit for Station 2's bathroom renovation. The Chief is still waiting on the quote for Station 1's bathrooms.
- New Fire Engine update
  - a) The body for the new fire engine is nearing completion and will be going to the paint shop next. The paint process is anticipated to take up to two weeks.
  - b) The manufacturer was finishing up the mockup of the pump panel.
  - c) Pictures of the work are posted every two weeks on the Marion website.
  - d) The factory inspection is anticipated to be sometime in late January or early February. The manufacturer's representative will be looking to firm up dates after the holidays.
- Commissioner Longo asked for the nominating report from Commissioner Higgins. Commissioner Higgins announced the following positions; Commissioner Longo - Chairman, Commissioner Spencer – Vice Chairman and Commissioner Quagliaroli - Secretary. Commissioner Spencer made a motion that the approval of the positions be approved by casting one vote for each position. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion and passed unanimously. Commissioner Longo accept the Nominating Committee's report and noted that the changes would be implemented at the January meeting.

- Commissioner Longo asked to discuss the Training Facility and the arrangement with Access Transportation to utilize the driveway for parking. Commissioner Longo inquired as to liability coverage. He would like to identify where the property lines are. Assistant Chief Thurz explained that the bus company utilizes the access road for parking only during the day and when the Training Facility was not in use. Assistant Chief Thurz also discussed that the future Eagle Scout is still working on the fundraising part of the project. The individual is also in the permitting process with the various town agencies that he needs for approval. The project is estimated to begin in the spring time.
- Commissioner Spencer asked about the foam which was used at Bradley Airport and if the Department uses the same foam? Assistant Chief Thurz noted that the Department does have some of the same foam, but has been taken out of service. A PFAS Task Force has been created by the Governor's office and are working on the logistics in how best to dispose of the firefighting foam that contains PFAS. There is talk that a collection and disposal day supported by the State will be implemented. There will be no reimbursement to the towns for any of the foam that is disposed of. The Department has identified all of the foam that will need to be removed from service, which is approximately 470 gallons. In the meantime, if any fire department needs to utilize foam it has to obtain approval from D.E.E.P. Commissioner Spencer asked for the cost to replace the foam to be included in the budget. Assistant Chief Thurz stated that the replacement would likely come from operating and that a separate line item is not required. Commissioner Cafazzo mentioned phasing in the purchase of the foam, so it does not all have to be purchased all at once. Assistant Chief Thurz noted that the State is working on approving a list of environmentally friendly Class B firefighting foam, and these options in purchasing foam may become available in 2020.
- Commissioner Longo asked about the purchasing of firefighting gear, and if there was a less expensive option to maintain the same standards of quality. Assistant Chief Thurz discussed that there are a variety of options available, but the Department's current specifications meet the Department's need. Assistant Chief Thurz noted that the NFPA standard is to replace gear every ten years. The longevity of the Morning Pride has been proven to last the full ten years. There are other gear manufacturers which offer different alternatives, but do not offer the same quality or last as long as what the Department has experienced. The Department's gear has been proven to be one of the safest, which is the ultimate goal.

**New Business:**

- None

**Correspondences:**

- None

**Next Regular Meeting:** January 2, 2020 at Company 1, 2825 Main Street, 6:30 PM.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Commissioner Cafazzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Dutton seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Deborah Torres

Deborah Torres  
Recording Secretary

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