

Board of Fire Commissioners

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

January 2, 2020

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 Gilbert Spencer  
Commissioner Richard Quagliaroli  
Commissioner John Cafazzo  
Commissioner James Dutton  
Commissioner Arnold Higgins

**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 6:30 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Longo asked for a motion to approve the November minutes that were corrected. Commissioner Spencer made the motion to approve and seconded by Commissioner Cafazzo. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Longo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Cafazzo and seconded by Commissioner Spencer. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Thurz reported on the following;

- On December 14<sup>th</sup> there was an incident which involved a power line and two natural gas fires on Strickland Street. A tree had taken down a power line, which ultimately led to two separate natural gas fed fires occurring in front of two homes. The road ended up being closed for an extended period of time while the utilities made the necessary repairs. Fire Department remained on scene for close to five hours.
- The Department switched to its own email server effective 01/01/2020. The Department will no longer rely on a third party vendor for service. The former email system will be shut down on January 31st.
- Review of Department's monthly expenditures

**Committee Reports:**

- The Strategic Planning Committee will have its next meeting on Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM at Station 3.

**Old Business:**

- Renovation updates:
  - Fire Station 1 – New kitchen cabinets were delivered and installed. However, the sink previously ordered was incorrect. A new sink had been ordered, and is now at Martin Cabinet to have the countertop cut. In addition the demolition of the women's bathroom has started. The men's bathroom will be a temporary unisex bathroom until construction is completed.
  - Fire Station 2 – Demolition of the men's bathroom is completed and the framing is in process. Chief Thurz, Deputy Chief Denner and Captain Yacka met with the contractor on 12/30/19 to discuss the progress. The longest lead time will be the lockers and sink. The bathroom will hopefully be functional within the next couple of weeks with a final completion by the end of February. As for the four rooms off the apparatus bay that had ceiling damage due to the roof leaks, that work will commence shortly. Facility maintenance will be performing the work. A storage POD will be used to temporarily store the department's equipment and tools. There have been no additional roof leaks noticed since the roof modification was made. Deputy Chief Motowidlak noted that the roof in the back stairwell has already been repaired and re-painted.
- New Fire Engine update
  - a) The body portion of the new fire engine has been primed and was scheduled to be painted in the coming weeks. The manufacturer updates the progress every two weeks on their website. A date for the factory inspection still needs to be determined.
- Pertaining to Access Transportation utilizing the training facility's driveway for their employees' personal vehicles, the Town of Glastonbury has been named as an additional insured.
- PFAS – the Department is waiting to see what direction the State of Connecticut will take as it relates to any foam agent that contains PFAS. In the event firefighting foam needs to be utilize the Department will notify the Department of Environmental and Energy Protection first. Chief Thurz will review with the Department Officers at the next training meeting.
- Personal Protective Equipment - Chief Thurz has reviewed the Department's turnout gear specification with the manufacturer's representative and is comfortable with the level of protection that is being provided. The Department's personal protective equipment is manufactured by Morning Pride and has been in use for the past two decades. The last modification to the personal protective equipment was the installation of a harness in the pants, a more durable knee pad and the more durable thermal moisture barrier in the coat.

- Commissioner Dutton inquired if Chief Thurz made contact with a representative from Gottfried and Somberg Wealth Partners about the possibility of utilizing their buildings for training. Chief Thurz said that he did, but that they needed to check with their attorney as the buildings had asbestos that needed to be abated.
- Commissioner Longo inquired if there were any updates as to the proposed budget. Chief Thurz said there had been no updates. Commissioner Spencer asked if the budget workshop schedule had been released. Chief Thurz advised that he has not seen a schedule as of yet.

**New Business:**

- Commissioner Longo mentioned that at last month's meeting the Nominating Committee Report was accepted, and that he would like to welcome Commissioner Spencer as the new Vice Chairman. He also thanked Commissioner Cafazzo for his service as Vice Chairman over the last two years.
- Commissioner Longo inquired if there was any idea as to how much longer the Fire Department's Administrative Assistant would be assisting at Town Hall with passports. Chief Thurz replied that he would not discuss the matter, as it was a personnel matter.

**Correspondences:**

- None

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

**Meeting Adjourned:** Commissioner Cafazzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Spencer seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.



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