

Board of Fire Commissioners

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 5, 2020

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

**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 minutes from the February meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Dutton. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Thurz reported on the following:

- The new engine for Station 4 has left the factory and is expected to be in Cheshire the week of March 9, 2020.
- There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in the Town Council chambers to discuss amending the tax abatement ordinance to increase the dollar amount allocated for public safety volunteers. Chief Thurz will be attending the public hearing. If approved, the increase would take effect July 1, 2020. Chief Thurz provided Commission members with a memo outlining the proposed increase, along with a copy of the public act that was approved in June 2019 and a copy of the current town ordinance.
- The FEMA Grant associated with the self-contained breathing apparatus has been completed. The grant was reviewed by a representative from FEMA Region 1, and will be submitted in the coming days.
- The Department's operating budget for next fiscal year remains intact. There was a public hearing being held on March 5, 2020 to approve and vote on the budget.
- The Department held a Strategy and Tactics course on February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. A total of 23 members participated in the seminar. The instructor was Deputy Chief Albe Bassett with

the Norwalk Fire Department who co-authored the program. The Department will also be hosting a program called Critical Thinking for the Fire Officer that was developed by Deputy Chief Leigh Shapiro (Ret.) with the Hartford Fire Department. The program will be open to all Department members. Chief Thurz and Deputy Chief Dennler were provided a preview of the program at the Hartford County Fire Emergency Plan meeting in Simsbury a couple months ago and thought it would important to bring to the Department.

- Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association will have a meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> in Cromwell. The presentation will be on the plane crash at Bradley Airport last year. Chief Duffy with Bradley Airport Fire and Chief Flynn with Suffield Fire will be the presenters. If interested the Commission is welcome to attend as Chief Thurz's guest.
- The second payout of the Fire Department's units will be at the end of March.
- Chief Thurz had a meeting with Eversource on February 20<sup>th</sup> to review the Strickland Street and Hebron Avenue incidents. There was a discussion on communications and how to improve between the two agencies. Glastonbury Fire will be hosting an Eversource Safety Meeting at the Riverfront Community Center on April 27<sup>th</sup> that will be open to all Department members. The presentation will be three hours and will cover 'What not to do around live wires'.
- The annual awards dinner will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020. The dinner will be at the A Villa Louisa in Bolton, CT, as they were the lowest cost provider.
- The town has developed a Coronavirus Task Force which held its first meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Chief Thurz, along with the Police Chief, Health Director, Purchasing Agent, Human Resources and the Glastonbury EMS attended to discuss our preparation. There will be follow up meetings in the weeks to come.
- Review of Department's monthly expenditures.

#### **Old Business:**

- Renovation updates:
  - Fire Station 1 – The women's room is nearing completion with the exception of the lockers that still need to be installed, along with a partition and bench. The men's room has been taken out of service in order for it to be modified. As for the kitchen/training room the department is waiting on a couple cabinets.
  - Fire Station 2 – The men's room is nearing completion. The last item to be completed is the sink with a couple of changes. Chief Thurz noted that a couple of lockers need to be replaced because they were shipped damaged. Chief Thurz and Captain Yacka met with the contractor on March 2nd to review their progress. The ceilings in storage rooms are completed and the rooms repainted. The installation of a chair lift is still being investigated. There are other improvements still to be made within the station. Commissioner Longo mentioned how well the renovations look.
  - Fire Stations 3 and 4 – will be on hold until the other stations are complete.

- Commissioner Quagliaroli inquired if there had been any consideration in moving the access gate at the Training Facility. Chief Thurz reported that he had not investigated it any further, but noted that the Department did receive a copy of Access Transportations insurance policy.
- Commissioner Longo inquired as to the status of the Eagle Scout's project at the training facility. Assistant Chief Thurz reported that the individual is still in his fundraising phase of the program, but the plans for the pavilion have been finalized. The individual is hoping to break ground sometime in late April.
- New Fire Engine update
  - Capt. Cofield, Lt. Ruggiero, and FF Kravontka toured the facility and inspected the engine. The plan is to take the existing Engine 41 out of service so that the brackets and other equipment can be stripped and be brought to the vendor's Cheshire facility for installation. The spare engine would be placed into service. The truck will still need to be inspected by the Vehicle Maintenance manager, and there will be required driver training. The new engine will hopefully be placed into service by Memorial Day.
- Glastonbury Partners in Planting (GPIP) continues to move forward with its plans to enhance the landscaping in front of Station 1.
- Commissioner Longo inquired about future apparatus purchases and what the Commission needs to do to look at replacing the older apparatus in the coming years. Commissioner Longo would like to avoid replacing all of the apparatus at the same time, and suggested that a packet be put together to show the age of the various apparatus to the Town Council. Commissioner Spencer asked if the Town Council is provided with a list of apparatus that shows its age. Chief Thurz replied that as part of the Capital Improvement Program apparatus replacement is included in the budget. Chief Thurz noted that this year's Capital Improvement Program reflected apparatus replacement as the Department's second priority. Chief Thurz went on to state that part of the ad hoc committee is to develop a strategic plan for future apparatus replacement.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Commissioner Quagliaroli discussed that the ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee, which met on February 20th. The discussion centered building renovation updates, Chief Thurz's meeting with Eversource, as well as the per diem program, duty officer, possible implementation of a platoon system and requirements. There were no resolutions made at the meeting. The next meeting will be March 19, 2020. Commissioner Spencer said there was a lot of good discussions.

#### **New Business:**

- **None**

#### **Correspondences:**

- **None**

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

**Meeting Adjourned:** Commissioner Cafazzo made a motion to adjourn, which Commissioner Quagliaroli seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 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