

Board of Fire Commissioners

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2020

Present: Commissioner Longo, Commissioner Quagliaroli and Commissioner Spencer.
Commissioner Cafazzo by Zoom

Absent: Commissioner Dutton and Commissioner Higgins

Others: Chief Michael Thurz, Assistant Chief David Thurz, Deputy Chief Dennler and
Deputy Chief Motowidlak and Matt King - Town of Glastonbury's Information
Technology by Zoom

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 November meeting. Commissioner Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes with Commissioner Longo seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Chief's Report:

Chief Thurz reported on the following:

- Four candidates applied for the open Lieutenant's position at Station 3 with only three candidates showing up for the written exam on November 9th. In addition, the three candidates participated in an outside panel oral exam on November 16th. The panelist for the oral exam consisted of three out of town Chief Officers from the Cheshire, Suffield and Rocky Hill Fire Departments. Commissioner Cafazzo served as the moderator. A Chief's Interview, which consisted of Chief Thurz, Asst. Chief Thurz and Commissioner Cafazzo, was held on December 1, 2020 with two of the candidates. Chief Thurz advised that he interviewed the third candidate the day before due to a scheduling conflict. Based on the process, Chief Thurz advised the Commission that he is appointing Acting Lieutenant Scott Bidwell to permanent Lieutenant.
- A new contractor is preparing the cost estimates for the renovation work at Stations 3 and 4. The cost is due back the week of December 7, 2020.
- Stations 1, 3 and 4 had additional key fob controls installed to enhance security at each location.
- The Purchasing Department issued a purchase order for a chairlift at Station 2. The install date is unknown at this time.

- On November 17, 2020, the Department responded to a structure fire at 32 Shipman Drive. The cause was determined to be from a vehicle parked inside the garage. There were no injuries. An incident critique, moderated by Asst. Chief Thurz was conducted in accordance to Department guidelines.
- A representative from Firematic Supply provided members of the Department with an overview of a demo Rescue/Pumper at Station 3.
- Work on the pavilion at the Fire Training Facility continues. Asst. Chief Thurz provided an overview of the work completed to date, which included the concrete pad installed and the flagpole finished. The Eagle Scott is awaiting the delivery of the lumber.
- The Department is moving forward with the replacement of all Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Prior to the denial of the FEMA grant, an SCBA committee was established. The committee, chaired by Deputy Chief Denner, recommended that the Department migrate to MSA. In preparing for the upcoming budget session, Chief Thurz spoke with the MSA vendor when made aware of a considerable savings if purchased prior to November 30th. In working with the Town Manager, both the Town Council and Board of Finance approved a \$400K transfer to Capital Improvement. The \$400K, along with the \$120K previously appropriate, will allow the Department to acquire 75 new SCBAs and 150 air cylinders for \$520K. The purchase will also include two rapid intervention packs. The Purchasing Department issued a purchase order to Firematic Supply on December 2, 2020, and it is hopeful that the Department will take delivery by the end of the month. A considerable amount of training will take place in the coming weeks to get everyone familiar with the new units, with an implementation date of no later than the second week of January. As for any future changes made to the NFPA standards, the MSA SCBA units are able to accept "Flash Drive" upgrade assuming that the standard's committee does not implement any major changes. As previously discussed, the Department will also establish a future replacement program so that it does not end up in a similar situation 15 years from now.
- Reviewed the Department's monthly operating expenses for November.

Old Business:

- None

Committee Report:

- Strategic Planning - Commissioners Spencer and Quagliaroli provided an overview of the November 23, 2020 meeting. The focus of the meeting consisted of personnel, which included retention, recruitment, limited response and how best to address, stipends and officer evaluation. The next scheduled meeting will continue to focus on all of these topics.

New Business:

- None

Correspondences:

- None

Prior to calling for an adjournment, Commissioner Longo discussed the possibility of future meetings to be Zoom only due to the rise in Covid. Chief Thurz also mentioned that the Department is considering smaller group training events to adhere to social distancing requirements.

Commissioner Longo also wanted to thank Deputy Chief Dennler, and the entire committee that worked on the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus project for their long hours and many meetings.

Next Regular Meeting: January 7, 2021, 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned: Commissioner Longo made a motion to adjourn, which Commissioner Cafazzo seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 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