

Board of Fire Commissioners  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
January 7, 2021

**Present:**        In Person:  
Commissioner Longo, Commissioner Quagliaroli and Commissioner Higgins

By Zoom:  
Commissioner Cafazzo, Commissioner Dutton and Commissioner Spencer,

**Others:**        In Person:  
Assistant Chief David Thurz, Deputy Chief Motowidlak and Lt. Paul Kehoe

By Zoom:  
Town of Glastonbury's Information Technology Matt King

**Absent:**        Chief Michael Thurz and 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 December 3, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Quagliaroli made a motion with Commissioner Spencer seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Thurz could not be present this evening as he was instructing members on the new self-contained breathing apparatus that are tentatively scheduled to be implemented the week of January 24th.

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Update:**

- Training on the new SCBAs is currently taking place, and scheduled to be complete this evening. The Department's training consisted of fit testing, a classroom session, and a number of practical scenarios in order to become familiar with the new SCBAs. Once the competency skills are complete, members will be cleared to use the new SCBAs. As part of the training, the Department contracted with the Connecticut Fire Academy to utilize their SCBA Confidence Maze.

Commissioner Longo inquired if there were any complications with Covid19 and mask contamination. Asst. Chief Thurz stated that contamination of the regulator does not occur, as the exhalation valve is located in the mask, which helps prevent cross contamination. When done with the use of a mask, a decontamination solution is sprayed then rinsed and dried.

Commissioner Quagliaroli said once again that Deputy Chief Dennler, and the SCBA committee did an excellent job putting this transition together.

Commissioner Spencer asked if each firefighter is responsible for cleaning their own mask. Asst. Chief Thurz described the cleaning process that each member completes in order to return the SCBA to service.

Commissioner Caffazzo asked if each firefighter would be issued their own mask. Asst. Chief Thurz stated those that need a small, or a large mask would be issued one to comply with the fit testing requirements. The standard medium mask that comes with each SCBA unit will be stored on the apparatus. From a logistical standpoint, this was the decision based on the committee's recommendation. In the future, there may be discussion in regards to issuing an individual mask to each firefighter.

Commissioner Longo asked if anyone has decided what we will be doing with the old bottles. Did we get to sell any? Asst. Chief Thurz noted there are a few Scott cylinders that are still compliant, and could be used for other purposes. However, the majority of the cylinders are no longer compliant and have minimal value.

Commissioner Dutton asked if we needed to purchase any new special equipment to fill the new bottles. Asst. Chief Thurz advised three new adapters needed to be installed on the compressor's filling station.

#### Station Renovations:

- Facilities received the quote for the renovation work at Station 3 and 4. The quote was well above the budget allocation. Dave Sacchitella, Chief Thurz and the contractor met to review the scope of work and address the quote. The contractor was going to review the quote and make any adjustments, if applicable.
- A chairlift installed at Station 2 from the first to the second floor.

#### Budget:

- The Department has submitted the FY'2021-22 budget to the Town Manager for review. This is the first phase in a multi-phase process. The next budget meeting will be mid to late February.

#### Vaccination of Members:

- Members have an opportunity to receive a Covid19 vaccination through Eastern Connecticut Health Network. Most that have requested a vaccination have received their first dose with no known side effects. Some members will be getting their second dose soon.

February 4<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting:

- Chief Thurz wanted to inform the Commission that he has a conflict with the next meeting in which he will not be able to appear in person, but will be on Zoom.

Review of monthly operating expenses:

- Asst. Chief Thurz provided Commission members with a copy of the December operating expenses.

**Old Business:**

- None

**Committee Report:**

- None

**New Business:**

- Commissioner Longo inquired about having future Commission meetings by Zoom only. Everyone agreed that the hybrid style format was acceptable.
- Commissioner Longo asked if the department was replacing the Ford Crown Victoria staff vehicle. Asst. Chief Thurz responded that the vehicle had been retired, and that the Vehicle Superintendent was in the process of issuing a used Ford Explorer in its place.

**Correspondences:**

- None

**Next Regular Meeting:** February 4, 2021, 6:30 PM via Zoom.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Commissioner Quagliaroli made a motion to adjourn, which Commissioner Spencer seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 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