

Board of Fire Commissioners

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2021

Present: Commissioner Longo, Commissioner Quagliaroli and Commissioner Higgins in person. Commissioner Dutton and Commissioner Spencer by Zoom.

Absent: Commissioner Cafazzo

Others: Chief Michael Thurz and Matthew King with Information Technology by Zoom and Assistant Chief David Thurz and Deputy Chief Motowidlak in person.

Absent: Deputy Chief Dennler

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 January 7, 2021 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 the following:

- The department has taken delivery of the new self-contained breathing apparatus. The units go into service on February 6, 2021. The self-contained breathing apparatus taken out of service will be stored at the training facility until properly disposed. Most of the air cylinders are no longer usable and will be disposed of as scrap metal. The department will retain a select number of air cylinders that remain compliant for other uses.
- There has been no new progress with the proposed renovations for Stations 3 and 4. Facilities asked the contractor to review the initial quote, which was \$200K over budget. The contractor replied that they felt their quote accurately reflected the cost of the work to be completed. A meeting with David Sacchitella (Facilities) and the architect from Northeast Collaborative took place to discuss ideas in how to lower the cost of the project. Two alternatives were discussed which included removing certain items from the overall scope of work. Considerations included the removal of the kitchen renovations, modification to the former Decon room for the custodian and ceramic tile in lieu of resinous epoxy. In addition, the use of heavy-gauge metal studs and "wonder"/cement board as opposed to masonry block walls.
- A joint meeting held with Town Council and Board of Finance members took place to discuss the proposed Capital Improvement Program. As previously noted, \$400K was already allocated for the purchase of the new self-contained breathing apparatus. At the meeting, Parks and Recreation noted consideration to realign the boat docks would result

in the relocation of the fireboat. This alternative would provide better security for the fireboat.

- The department will be submitting through the Assistance to Fire Act Grant a request for \$165K to install a Source Captured Exhaust Extrication System at each station. The application is due by February 12, 2021.
- Review of monthly operating expenses:

Old Business:

- Commissioner Longo inquired if members who may have initially refused a vaccination would have an opportunity to receive a shot if they changed their mind. Chief Thurz noted that he would work with ECHN if a member wanted to receive a vaccine. However, he cautioned that a request maybe delayed given the fact that they recently ran out of the vaccine.
- Commissioner Longo asked about the status of oil samples for the apparatus. Deputy Chief Motowidlak replied that Vehicle Maintenance was waiting on a fitting to conduct the test.
- Commissioner Quagliaroli inquired as to the status of the DOT inspections for the apparatus. Deputy Chief Motowidlak noted that the inspections had begun, but were now on hold so that Vehicle Maintenance could focus its attention on snowplows. Chief Thurz replied that they would review the status of the DOT inspections with the fleet superintendent.

Committee Report:

- Commissioner Quagliaroli provided an overview of the latest strategic committee meeting, held on January 25, 2021. The discussion focused on reinstating performance evaluations for officers and firefighters. The group also discussed how to handle standby pay versus incident pay. The group's next meeting will continue to focus on enhancing the performance evaluation process.

New Business:

- None

Correspondences:

- None

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

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