

Board of Fire Commissioners

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2021

**Present:** Commissioner Longo, Commissioner Quagliaroli, Commissioner Cafazzo, and Commissioner Spencer

**Note:** Commissioner Higgins arrived at approximately 6:45 PM

**Absent:** Commissioner Dutton

**Others:** Chief Michael Thurz, Assistant Chief David Thurz, Deputy Chief Motowidlak and Deputy Chief Bernard Dennler

Commissioner Longo called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Longo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Cafazzo made the motion to accept with Commissioner Spencer seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Thurz reported the following:

- An Eagle Scout ceremony held on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Training Facility to dedicate the new pavilion. Members of the Department, Commissioner Quagliaroli along with the Pagliughi family attended the dedication. Funding of the construction materials was through the donations received in memory of Assistant Chief Anthony Pagliughi Jr.
- Over 40 members participated in this year's Memorial Day Parade.
- A committee to research new software vendors will begin their review in the near future. At a previous meeting, the Commission was informed that Firehouse Software was purchased by ESO. ESO will stop supporting Firehouse Software at the end of this year. Chief Thurz is working on scheduling meetings with the vendors and committee members in the coming weeks.
- Transmission for Forestry 44 was replaced, and just waiting on new tires before returning to service. The current tires are over 20 years old, and replacement is the recommendation.
- Assistance to Fire Act Grant (AFG) update noted 8,186 applications submitted. Of those submitted 3,140 made it to "Peer Review". Applications are now in post Panel Review, and awards expected to start in late June and go through the summer. Turn down letters will go out in August. The 2021 AFG grant application expected to open in October.

- Commissioner Longo inquired about the American Rescue Plan. He read about a \$1.2 million allocation to the Board of Education, and wondered why not the Fire Department receiving anything. Chief Thurz informed him that the plan has specific criteria regarding the allocation of the funds. Chief Thurz did mention that there are additional funds earmarked in the plan through the AFG process. Furthermore, a portion of the American Rescue Plan does allocate funding for municipal water projects, which indirectly would be beneficial to the fire service with the addition of fire hydrants to those areas that lack municipal water today.
- An itemized renovation list and Capital Improvement needs was sent to the other Chiefs and Captain for their review. The list was also provide to David Sacchietella to assist in developing pricing and a next step approach. Chief Thurz reported he received a preliminary cost for the bathroom renovations at Stations 3 and 4. The cost for each station was slightly less than \$100K.
- Chief Thurz will be out of state attending the New England Association of Fire Chief's conference in Portsmouth, NH on June 22 – 24<sup>th</sup>. He will also be on vacation from June 29<sup>th</sup> through July 3<sup>rd</sup>. He suggested that the Commission forgo the July meeting given the long holiday weekend.
- Review of monthly operating expenses.

#### **Old Business:**

- Commissioner Longo inquired if there were any Commissioners interested in purchasing a ticket for the Connecticut Firefighter's Hall of Fame dinner in September. Honored this year will be Firefighter Edward Urbansky.

#### **Committee Report:**

- Commissioner Quagliaroli provided an overview of the latest strategic committee meeting. The committee completed its third revision of the job descriptions for the various positions within the department. The next meeting is June 21<sup>st</sup> with the goal to finalize the job description so that they are ready for posting. The intent is to provide the other Commissioners with copies of the descriptions at the August meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- None

#### **Correspondences:**

- Commissioner Longo noted that Commissioner Spencer turned in a letter of resignation from the Fire Commission, effective June 25, 2021. Commissioner Longo presented Commissioner Spencer with a plaque of recognition for his 35 years of service and leadership. Commissioner Spencer thanked everyone, and expressed how much he enjoyed being a part of the Fire Commission.

Commissioner Longo asked for a motion to postpone the July meeting due to the holiday weekend. Commissioner Cafazzo made the motion to forgo a meeting in July and reconvene in August. Commissioner Longo seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Meeting:** August 5, 2021, at Company 1, 2825 Main Street, 6:30 PM.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Commissioner Spencer made a motion to adjourn, which Commissioner Longo seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 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