

Board of Fire Commissioners

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2021

Present: Commissioner Longo, Commissioner Quagliaroli, Commissioner Cafazzo, and Commissioner Dutton

Absent: Commissioner Cavanaugh.

Others: Chief Michael Thurz, Deputy Chief Motowidlak and Deputy Chief Bernard Denkler

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 June 3, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Cafazzo made the motion to accept with Commissioner Quagliaroli seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioner Dutton abstaining, as he was not in attendance.

Special Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Longo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Dutton made the motion to accept with Commissioner Cafazzo seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Chief's Report: Chief Thurz reported the following:

- On October 1, the promotion of John Ruggiero to Captain, and Daniel Hannon to Lieutenant at Station 4 took effect. An outside panel of three chiefs conducted the initial interviews for all the candidates, which Commissioner Cavanaugh monitored. The Lieutenant candidates then participated in a Chief's interview, which included the four Chief officers.
- The Department received \$150,000 Assistance to Fire Act grant from FEMA. The funds will be for the installation of exhaust mitigation equipment at each station. The next FEMA Assistance to Fire Act grant will open on November 8, 2021. Consideration in replacing the Department's gas metering/detection equipment as a potential project.
- Facilities Maintenance has received proposals from the on-call architecture firms regarding the station renovations. The proposals range from \$65,000 to \$175,000, which were much higher than anticipated. The Department is working with Facilities to continue to figure an alternative solution.
- Repaving of Station 4's parking lot and access roadway is underway. The work will be complete within the coming week.

- On October 3, the Department conducted a water supply evolution. An officer from each company organized the training, with Deputy Chief Denler overseeing the entire training evolution.
- On October 5, the Department hosted a Fire Prevention open house at Stations 1 and 2, and incorporated some recruitment materials in hopes to attract new members.
- On October 16, the Department, in conjunction with the Fire Marshal's Office put on a public demonstration at the Apple Harvest Festival showing the benefits of fire sprinkler systems in single-family dwellings.
- On October 21 and 23, the Department contracted CT Custom Fire Training to provide training in advance stabilization. The training was in conjunction with the Department's purchase of new Paratech air bags.
- On November 1, the Department's annual meeting was at Station 1. As with each annual meeting new members were welcomed, along with a review of past year's activities, project updates and proposed Capital Improvement Program. Each Commission member received a copy of the meeting's presentation.
- Each Commissioner received a draft of the Department's proposed Capital Improvement Program and Capital Outlay for the upcoming budget year. Commissioner Longo inquired as to the status of Station 2's generator and if it was going to be replaced or tuned up. Chief Thurz replied that the cost for the generator would be coming from the Town's Emergency Preparedness category. Commissioner Quagliaroli asked what the status was, which Chief Thurz replied it was in progress.
- Commissioner Longo inquired about the proposed rescue pumpers, and the feasibility of having two identical trucks. Chief Thurz replied that as of right now it was just a concept, and that it would eliminate the need to develop two separate Request for Proposals and apparatus drawings. While there could be minor deviations, the thought process would be to take advantage of potential economies of scale in purchasing similar apparatus. Furthermore, the addition of a rescue pumper at Station 3 would increase the water carrying capabilities in an area that lacks municipal water. The proposal would also reduce the fleet by one vehicle. Commissioner Cafazzo inquired about the replacement of the staff vehicle with over 100,000 miles, and if it could be delayed another year given production backlog in the vehicle industry. Commissioner Longo stated that he felt like the replacement of apparatus has always been a long delay. Commissioner Longo feels the department needs to stand up more. Commissioner Dutton replied that the Commission would need to become more involved with the Town Council and Board of Finance.
- Members received the first installment of the bi-annual unit payment in October.
- Chief Thurz will be attending the Volunteer/Combination Officer Section conference in Clearwater, Florida from November 10 to the 15.

- Review of monthly operating expenses.

Old Business:

- None

Committee Report:

- Commissioner Quagliaroli reported that the next strategic planning committee meeting is November 22.

New Business:

- Given the recent election, Commissioner Longo asked someone to create a slate of nominees for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Commissioner Cafazzo volunteered to develop a nomination slate for the December 2 meeting.

Correspondences:

- None

Next Regular Meeting: December 2, 2021, at Company 1, 2825 Main Street, 6:30 PM. Chief Thurz informed the Commissioners that he would not be available for the meeting, and that either the Assistant Chief or one of the Deputy Chiefs would represent him that evening.

Meeting Adjourned: Commissioner Dutton made a motion to adjourn, which Commissioner Cafazzo seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.



Deborah Torres
Recording Secretary

- c: Fire Commission (5)
Fire Chiefs (4)
Fire Captains (4)
Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager
Chris Siwy, Fire Marshal
Mary Visone, Purchasing Agent
Robert DiBella, Civil Preparedness