

Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2021

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

Others: Deputy Chief Motowidlak and Deputy Chief Bernard Dennler

Absent: Chief Michael Thurz and Assistant Chief David Thurz

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 4, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Cafazzo made the motion to accept with Commissioner Dutton seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Chief's Report: Deputy Chief Dennler provided the Commission with the Chief's report as Chief Thurz was attending the Connecticut Fire Service 2025 Summit at Camp Netts in Niantic.

- Chief Thurz attended the Volunteer Combination Officers conference in Clearwater, FL. Conference focused on the future of the fire service, which was discussed at the last Strategic Planning meeting.
- Department is applying for a \$47,800 Assistance to Fire Act Grant. The grant, if awarded would replace the Department's Four Gas, Five Gas and Hydrogen Cyanide meters, as well as purchase MSA's LUNAR system that would coincide with the new self-contained breathing apparatus.
- Paving and striping at Station 4 is completed
- Swearing in ceremony will be held on January 19th at the Riverfront Community Center at 7 PM.
- Department annual awards dinner will be on April 9th at the Villa Louisa in Bolton.
- Deputy Chief Dennler met with the officers that put on the water supply drill to talk about coordinating additional multi-company training. The goal is to establish a permanent training committee that would focus on standardizing our training, along with incorporating specialized training.
- Chief Thurz attended a Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security training on December 1st, which will conclude next Wednesday, December 8th in Branford.

- Annual flow testing of the self-contained breathing apparatus will take place on December 14th and 15th.
- Deputy Chief Dennler provided a review of the operating expenses for the past month. Commissioner Longo inquired if the flow testing of the self-contained breathing apparatus was necessary, and if it went out to bid. Deputy Chief Dennler replied that the flow testing is an annual requirement and that the breathing apparatus is coming up to being a year old. As for going out to bid, Firematic is the sole provider of MSA products in the State of Connecticut. Commissioner Longo also inquired as to why there were no vehicle expenditures. Deputy Chief Motowidlak noted that Vehicle Maintenance had not provided the latest monthly expenses.
- Deputy Chief Dennler welcomed both Commissioners Cavanaugh and Cofield to the board on behalf of the Chief's office.

Old Business:

- Commissioner Longo advised that the 2022 meetings schedule had been set. Deputy Chief Dennler inquired if there would be any consideration to having the meetings either quarterly or on an every other month basis. While Commissioner Longo noted that the question merit some discussion, it would be better off to revisit at a future date.
- Commissioner Cafazzo reported that he polled the other commissioners and that Commissioner Longo would continue to serve as Chairperson, with Commissioner Dutton serving as Vice Chairperson and Commissioner Quagliaroli as Secretary.
- Commissioner Longo noted several years back discussion took place about a designated Fire Department mechanic. Commissioner Longo inquired if this would be a concept worth exploring. Commissioner Longo noted that the individual would need to be Emergency Vehicle Technician certified. During off peak times the individual could split their time with the other Vehicle Maintenance mechanics. Commissioner Dutton stated that he would need more information in order to make an informed decision, and recommended that it be included on next month's agenda.

Committee Report:

- Commissioner Quagliaroli provided the other Commission members with draft copies of the job descriptions that the Strategic Focus group had developed. Commissioner Quagliaroli asked members to review, and if they had any feedback to forward their comments to Chief Thurz. Commissioner Dutton asked going forward to send any documents electronically as opposed to paper.
- Commissioner Longo inquired as to the status of performance reviews. Commissioner Quagliaroli stated job descriptions needed to be finished, and once that was complete, the committee would begin working on developing a document.
- Commissioner Longo asked Deputy Chief Dennler if there was any update on the building renovations. Deputy Chief Dennler replied that there was no updates.

- Commissioner Longo inquired if there was a truck committee meeting. Deputy Chief Motowidlak replied that there was an informational session to talk about the concept, but nothing definitive had taken place.
- Commissioner Longo asked about a high-pressure pump demonstration, and if it was being considered on any of the new apparatus. There was discussion about the concept, but nothing definitive to report. Commissioner Cofiell advised that the high-pressure unit was different from what Commissioner Longo had experienced in the past, as it was an Ultra high-pressure requiring greater pressures. Furthermore, the addition of an Ultra high-pressure set up on future apparatus should be a truck committee decision as it was more an operational matter.

New Business:

- None

Correspondences:

- None

Next Regular Meeting: January 6, 2022, at Company 1, 2825 Main Street, 6:30 PM.

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



Michael Thurz
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