

Board of Fire Commissioners  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2022

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

Others: Chief Michael Thurz and Deputy Chief Dennler

Absent: Assistant Chief David Thurz and Deputy Chief Motowidlak

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 6, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Cafazzo made the motion to accept with Commissioner Dutton seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

Chief Thurz asked for a moment of silence in memory of Paul Bowler and George Carreira, past Department members who passed away this week.

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Thurz reported the following:

- Captain Kessler has recommended Travis Granato for permanent membership. Commissioner Cafazzo made a motion to approve Firefighter Granato as a permanent member with Commissioner Cavanaugh seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- On January 7, 2022, the Department responded to a structure fire at 10 Hollister Way S. The fire affected two units, which were not habitable. There were no injuries.
- Installation of the gear washers and dryers at Stations 2 and 4 will be taking place in the coming weeks. Facilities has already started the required drainage work at Station 2.
- The Department presented its Capital Improvement Projects to Town Council and Board of Finance last month. Two projects recommended for next year's budget include \$475K for station renovations and \$195K for the source capture exhaust system. Funding for station renovations would be through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), while the source capture exhaust system through Capital Reserve.
- As potential referenda items would be two Rescue/Pumpers, a tanker and improvements to the Fire Training Facility. Total cost for these projects is approximately \$2.5 million.
- FEMA has approved the Department's environmental paperwork to move forward with the source capture vehicle exhaust system. FEMA will reimburse \$150K of the total project cost. Currently working with both Facilities and Purchasing to move forward with the implementation.

- Review of monthly operating expenses.
- Commissioner Longo inquired if it would be possible to change the sequence of apparatus replacement between the tanker and engine tank. Chief Thurz replied that the strategic planning committee developed an apparatus replacement schedule, and that there is not sufficient funds to support such a change.
- Commissioner Longo noted he recently read a newspaper article in how the Board of Education moved its bid process up a couple of months to purchase new school buses, and inquired if the Department could do the same thing. Chief Thurz replied he had not seen the article, and noted there are no funds currently approved to entertain such an idea.

**Old Business:**

- Commissioner Longo inquired as to the status of the job descriptions. Chief Thurz mentioned that there was discussion on the topic at January's Commission meeting, members had an opportunity to provide feedback to their Captains and that the job descriptions are now in place.

**New Business:**

- None

**Committee Report:**

- The Planning Committee meeting cancelled for January due to inclement weather.

**Next Regular Meeting:** March 3, 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 6:50 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