

Board of Fire Commissioners
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2022

Present: Commissioner Longo, Commissioner Dutton, Commissioner Quagliaroli,
Commissioner Cavanaugh and Commissioner Cofiell

Others: Chief Michael Thurz, Assistant Chief David Thurz, Deputy Chief Motowidlak
and Deputy Chief Denner

Absent: Commissioner Cafazzo

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 February 3, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Cofiell made the motion to accept with Commissioner Cavanaugh seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Chief's Report:

Chief Thurz reported the following:

- Captain Cody recommended Peter Boin and Luis Goitia for permanent membership. Commissioner Cavanaugh made a motion to accept Firefighters Boin and Goitia as permanent members with Commissioner Cofiell seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Delivery of the washers and dryers for Stations 2 and 4 are schedule for March 15th. Preparation work at Station 2 is complete, and the work at Station 4 will be finished by next week.
- Further discussion with the Town Council regarding the purchase of two Rescue/Pumpers took place at the Operating Budget workshop. The Town Manager presented an alternative option of purchasing two Rescue/Pumpers for \$1.6 million using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. There was no action taken by the Town Council.
- Commissioner Longo inquired if the funds allocated for the Rescue/Pumpers was sufficient to include equipping both vehicles. Chief Thurz advised that delivery of new fire apparatus is averaging 22 months. If the Department were to purchase new apparatus, the funds would only be sufficient to construct the vehicles. Any additional equipment needed would have to be purchase through the appropriate budget process prior to delivery. Commissioner Longo asked if there was any value in trading in the older apparatus to offset the cost. Chief Thurz replied that apparatus over 10 years old does not provide much of a trade in value.
- Facilities received a quote for the electrical work associated with the installation of the source captured exhaust system. Work on this project will likely commence after July 1st.

Chief Thurz advised the Commission that he added an additional exhaust drop at Station 2. The additional drop is to accommodate the potential of another vehicle assigned to this station.

- Review of monthly operating expenses.
- Commissioner Longo inquired if Vehicle Maintenance is still obtaining oil samples on the apparatus. Chief Thurz responded that Vehicle Maintenance obtained oil samples in the past, but not every time an apparatus goes out for service. Chief Thurz will check with Vehicle Maintenance to see if sampling is still taking place with the annual oil change. Commissioner Quagliaroli asked if each station could get a copy of their apparatus DOT inspections. Deputy Chief Motowidlak replied that DOT inspection reports are upload into Firehouse (Department's Record Management System).

Old Business:

- Commissioner Longo inquired as to the status of the Ultra high-pressure pumps. He understood that there was discussion a few months back, but tabled for the time being. He asked for the topic to be included on the agenda because a number of individuals approached him and had nothing to report. Both Commissioners Cofiehl and Quagliaroli stated that the decision to investigate the use of Ultra high-pressure pumps was going to be a truck committee decision. Chief Thurz added that discussion on the topic took place at the January 6, 2022 meeting and reflected in the minutes, which are posted at each fire station and available on-line.

New Business:


- Commissioner Cofiehl asked for an update on potential of installing dry hydrants along Fisher Hill Road in the area of the bridge, as well as the maintenance for both dry hydrants and cisterns. He noted that the landscaping on the corner of Neipsic Road and Brook Street was blocking the standpipe for that particular cistern. He asked if there was a maintenance program in place, understanding that there are easements in place and most are located on private property. Chief Thurz stated that there is a Standard Operating Guideline in place for maintenance, which the Captains should be following each year. Currently there are 15 dry hydrants and 26 cisterns throughout the town. The Department does not have a plan to take care of the landscaping, outside of asking the homeowner to assist in keeping the area accessible. Chief Thurz concluded that he would speak with the Fire Marshal's Office to see if there are any regulations in place.
- As for the installation of dry hydrants along Fisher Hill, Chief Thurz replied there was discussion of installing a pipe under the roadway from Eastbury Pond to Roaring Brook Plaza when the bridge was being repair. However, that idea was not part of the scope of work for the project. As for the installation of a dry hydrant at Quality Name Plate, that could be accomplished utilizing town staff. The Fire Department would be responsible for purchasing the materials. Town Engineering would be engaged in drafting the necessary easement and design work, with highway staff performing the installation.

Committee Report:

- Commissioner Quagliaroli reported that the Strategic Planning committee reviewed the Assistant Chief's job description, as well as the Standard Operating Guideline for the Performance Appraisal and the actual appraisal document. Members also discussed how to address assigning credit during inclement weather standbys, and ways to improve overall firefighter attendance. The next meeting will be on March 21st.

Next Regular Meeting: April 7, 2022, at Company 1, 2825 Main Street, 6:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: Commissioner Cofield made a motion to adjourn, which Commissioner Longo seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 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