

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, April 18, 2016 – 6:00 pm
Woodbridge Fire Department

Present: *Chairman Elia Alexiades, Secretary Mike Soufrine, Commissioner Bruce Mandell, Chief Sean Rowland, Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci, Deputy First Selectwoman Beth Heller (BOS Liaison)*

Absent: *Vice Chairman Michael Horton, Commissioner Mica Cardozo, Paul Kuriakose (BOF Liaison), and Nate Case (Executive Board Liaison)*

Call to Order

Chairman Alexiades convened the meeting at 6:01 pm.

Public Comments

None

Liaison Comments:

Deputy Selectwoman Heller reported that she and First Selectman Scalettar came last Tuesday to thank the volunteers for many hours of service in the recent weeks. The preliminary budget meeting is next Monday. Thank you from the Town for the Fire Safety Day and thank you for all do.

Review Current Financial Statements

Year-to-Date FC Operating Budget as of 04/18/2016

Chief Rowland distributed and reviewed the budgets. He explained the overage in Repair and Maintenance (53510) is due to repairs needed as the trucks get older and keep breaking down. He further explained the repairs for Engine 9 and Engine 3. The Board of Selectman approved \$28,822 from contingency for E9; the Board of Finance will take it up at a later date. E3 needed a new water pump, solenoid, and battery among other repairs. Cellular (54220) is consistently over and we will request a line item transfer from within our budget (\$3,000 out of Rentals and \$1,000 out of gear) to fund it. We are also over on IT/Data Processing; we knew we were going over because the line had been cut and also because switches needed to be repaired. We are requesting \$5,369.25 from contingency. Everything else is really close; including electricity and natural gas.

Regarding Capital machinery, Chief Rowland described recent power outages near Bradley Road and the subsequent loss of power to the radio site there. The battery backup failed and needs to be replaced. The Police Department has been dragging feet on replacing this. Chief Rowland requested an emergency purchase order to replace the UPS (uninterrupted power supply/battery) so if power is lost, the Fire Department has at least an hour to get a generator hooked up so radio coverage is not dropped. The funding is coming out of contingency. Discussion followed.

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Rowland

Apparatus Report

Chief Rowland explained the breakdowns and issues with Engines 3 and 9; older trucks that are getting more expensive to keep on the road. We are also nursing the ladder truck (E6) and need to address mechanical and electrical issues on that truck. Discussion took place.

Update on Engine 7

Chief Rowland reported Engine 7 is in service and is phenomenal. It is easy to pump and draft with and due to newer technology, more people can drive it than the old truck.

Fire Dispatch

The Police Commission put off the next round of interviews for a new chief into mid-May. Chief Rowland recommends that we move forward to get the dispatchers trained on the card set for fire dispatch.

Chairman Alexiades noted he didn't move on the joint meeting with the Police Commission because the First Selectwoman was supposed to arrange a meeting, but it didn't happen. Chief Rowland said he was also promised a meeting 3 and a half weeks ago. Chairman Alexiades stated he will follow up and that if a meeting doesn't occur, he will talk with Rob Berke about a joint meeting.

Radio system

Chief Rowland reported there is an ad hoc radio committee consisting of Susan Jacobs, David King, Chief Rowland, Acting Chief Stuart, and Tony Genovese. The committee reported in layman terms for the Boards of Selectmen and Finance so they have a general sense of how the system works. Chief Rowland has been moving forward and working designing a new system with Northeastern Communications and he explained the plan's development so far.

Apparatus replacement plan

Work is being done on a plan for a ladder truck and an engine.

Other

Two years ago attended the EMS Expo and would like to attend again this June 3 and 4 and take one or two people. Chairman Alexiades noted if it is within the State and is in the budget, there is no need for Fire Commission approval.

Eva Block Fire Safety Day went well. It was Volunteer Week; we have a couple of new people looking to join the Fire Department.

Chief Rowland does not know where things stand in the budget process regarding cuts. The preliminary budget meeting is next week and we have no idea what has been cut. Discussion followed.

WFD Activity Report – Assistant Fire Chief Pocwierz

Assistant Chief Pocwierz distributed and reviewed his Activity Reports, Statistics, & Vehicle Response Reports for March 2016. This has been the busiest March in 6 years. Calls of particular interest were noted. Discussion followed.

Fire Marshal's Report - (See attached report)

Fire Marshal Cappucci distributed and reviewed his report. Discussion took place. He has conducted 36 inspections from 3/21/16-4/18/16 and inspections of note were discussed. He has also been conducting fire extinguisher training for town hall employees, public works, and two new employees in Human Services.

Chairman's Report

None

Executive Session

None

Action on matters heard in Executive Session

None

Correspondence

None

Other Business that May be Voted to be Placed on the Agenda (if necessary)

None

Approval of DRAFT minutes of Regular Meetings 10/19/15, 11/16/15, and 1/4/16

Discussion took place on the draft minutes and the following actions were taken:

MOTION (SOUFRINE/MANDELL) to approve the minutes from 10/19/15 with corrections; **MOTION** approved unanimously (ALEXIADES/MANDELL/SOUFRINE).

MOTION (ALEXIADES/MANDELL) to approve the minutes from 11/16/15 with corrections; **MOTION** approved unanimously (ALEXIADES/MANDELL; SOUFRINE abstained).

MOTION (MANDELL/ALEXIADES) to approve the minutes from 1/4/16 as presented; **MOTION** approved unanimously (MANDELL/ALEXIADES; SOUFRINE abstained).

MOTION (SOUFRINE/ALEXIADES) to approve the minutes from 3/21/16 with corrections; **MOTION** approved unanimously (ALEXIADES/MANDELL/SOUFRINE).

Next Meeting date:

May 16, 2016

Adjournment

MOTION (SOUFRINE/MANDELL) to adjourn. With unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Michael Soufrine
Board of Fire Commissioners

Aimee Cotton Bogush, Clerk
Board of Fire Commissioners