

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, May 16, 2016 – 6:00 pm
Woodbridge Fire Department

Present: *Chairman Elia Alexiades, Vice Chairman Michael Horton, Secretary Mike Soufrine, Commissioner Bruce Mandell (arrived at 6:16pm), Chief Sean Rowland, Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci, Deputy First Selectwoman Beth Heller (BOS Liaison,) Paul Kuriakose (BOF Liaison), and Nate Case (Executive Board Liaison)*

Absent: *Commissioner Mica Cardozo*

Call to Order

Chairman Alexiades convened the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Public Comments

None

Liaison Comments:

Deputy First Selectwoman Heller reported on the Fire Department line item transfer requests that were presented at the Board of Selectman meeting. All were approved, except the cell phone line, pending more information. Tonight is the Annual Town Meeting at 7:30pm. DFS Heller also reported on the results of the lawsuit regarding the oil water separator at the fire house.

Paul Kuriakose apologized for his long absence due to illness and prior commitments.

Review Current Financial Statements

Year-to-Date FC Operating Budget as of 05/16/2016

Chief distributed and reviewed the budgets. He has been in contact with Anthony Genovese regarding the lines that will run over; and we know some would. Chief sent a memo to Genovese, the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Finance regarding the overages in line 53510 letting them know he will update them in June. The repair bills are high; some trucks are between 25 and 40 years old. Gear arrives in July, but billed to this fiscal year. Capital machinery, the UPS battery is on order and we will pay when it arrives.

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Rowland

Apparatus Report

All apparatus working now and Chief is hoping we can get into next budget year without an unforeseen expense.

Air Packs

Have funding this year to go out to bid in July to replace air packs that are at end of life. Discussion took place on the benefits of a mask with a thermal imager in it.

Fire Dispatch

Waiting for a new Police Chief to be appointed, once that occurs -- will meet and move forward to solve problem.

Radio system

Chief reported there is a meeting next week of the Radio Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of David King, Susan Jacobs, and Joe Dey with the Fire and Police Chiefs, Anthony Genovese, and Betsy Yagla as staff/non-voting members. Chief has been working for the past 6 months with Northeastern Communications and has a proposal he can present to the committee. An immense amount of research went into things prior to the creation of the committee. Chairman Alexiades hopes all the work Chief Rowland has done will make short work of the committee's job.

Apparatus replacement plan

Committee has a spec for a ladder truck and will go through it. Meeting with Firematic; they have a Pierce demo to bring here in June. Other vendors will be brought for the aerial and the committee is spec-ing a new engine to replace Engine 3.

FDIC was great; saw a lot of new things including air masks and air packs with new technology that makes for a lighter and more ergonomic pack. New technology is 4 generations of what we have. Air pack replacement is scheduled for this summer with the cost spread out over 3 years

Basic Pump Operator class being held here this Saturday and June 4th; we have 15-16 people in the class.

WFD Activity Report – Assistant Fire Chief Pocwierz (Attached)

Assistant Chief Pocwierz distributed and reviewed his Activity Reports, Statistics, & Vehicle Response Reports for April 2016. Calls of particular interest were noted. The number of fire calls is way up this year due to motor vehicle accidents and wind storms. Discussion followed.

Chief Rowland discussed a recent power outage at the Police Department that took down half of dispatch. He stressed the importance of having a committee to maintain the dispatch center; instead of needing to react when things fail. Chief detailed the plan to move radio equipment into 21 Bradley Road; saves monthly rent, provides a temperature controlled and accessible room, and generator power. The move should be completed mid-to end of July. Discussion took place on radio equipment that needs upgrading, particularly the console which is far past its useful life. The radio system is failing regularly now. Chief went on to describe the plan to gain upgrade equipment and gain coverage including specifics related to the Oak Lane Country Club site, the AT& T site on Litchfield Turnpike, the Tower in Seymour, and the tower at the Police Department. Funding was considered and the town's STEAP grant was discussed. The radio committee would benefit from the input of the Fire and Police Commissions. Further discussion took place to clarify the operation and maintenance of the generator at the Police Department and the micro grid that is coming soon.

Fire Marshal's Report - (See attached report)

Fire Marshal Cappucci distributed and reviewed his report. Discussion took place. He has conducted 34 inspections from 4/18/16 to 5/16/16 and inspections of note were discussed. In addition, he trained 15 members of Public Works on extinguisher use.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Alexiades reported that the WVFA swore in new officers at the Installation Dinner last Friday as follows: Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz, Captain Adam O'Hara, 1st Lieutenant Chris Bahner, 2nd Lieutenant Chris Rish, 3rd Lieutenant Anthony Berardesca, and Sergeant Nicholas Marcarelli.

MOTION (MANDELL/HORTON) to add ratification of WVFA officers to the agenda; MOTION passed unanimously (ALEXIADES/HORTON/SOUFRINE/MANDELL).

MOTION (SOUFRINE/MANDELL) to ratify the Woodbridge Volunteer Fire Association's election of officers for the coming year as presented; MOTION approved unanimously and with congratulations (ALEXIADES/HORTON/SOUFRINE/MANDELL).

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 4/18/16

MOTION (ALEXIADES/HORTON) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held 4/18/16 as presented; MOTION passed unanimously (ALEXIADES/HORTON/SOUFRINE/MANDELL).

Next Meeting date:

June 20, 2016

Adjournment

MOTION (MANDELL/SOUFRINE) to adjourn. With unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at time 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Michael Soufrine
Board of Fire Commissioners

Aimee Cotton Bogush, Clerk
Board of Fire Commissioners