TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, June 20, 2016 – 6:00 pm
Woodbridge Fire Department

Present: *Chairman Elia Alexiades, Secretary Mike Soufrine, Commissioner Mica Cardozo, Chief Sean Rowland, Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz,*

Absent: *Vice Chairman Michael Horton, Commissioner Bruce Mandel, Deputy First Selectwoman Beth Heller (BOS Liaison), Paul Kuriakose (BOF Liaison), Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci, and Nate Case (Executive Board Liaison)*

Call to Order
Chairman Alexiades convened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Public Comments
None (camera person only member of the public)
Liaison Comments:
None

Review Current Financial Statements
Year-to-Date FC Operating Budget as of 06/20/2016
Chief distributed budget and reviewed it with Commission. Repair – Maintenance/Machinery is considerably over-budget. Chief reported the BOF and BOS are aware of the situation and will transfer funds from contingency in July. The fleet is aging and there have been a lot of repairs needed. The line will continue to go over and then July 1 is a new fiscal year. The other lines are close and if they go over, we should be able to cover with other lines. Discussion took place.

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Rowland
Chief Rowland reported there were two major accidents last week – a fatal on Downs Road on Friday and a 2 car head on last Sunday on Route 69 between the farm and Clark Road at which 6 patients were transported via 5 ambulances. Four patients were critical and all went home Thursday. Chief reported the department completed the extrication in 6 minutes; the new Amkus equipment worked well and all personnel worked well together. Discussion took place on the wisdom of replacing the old Amkus tools 6 months ago. With the newer tools, powered directly by the hydraulics from the Rescue truck we had this positive end result.

We will have an EMT recertification class here the second week of July so our EMTs will be recertified. We also just completed a basic pump operator class for our firefighters here for two full Saturdays.

Chief will attend the NE Fire Expo at Foxwoods to see apparatus and talk to vendors and manufacturers.

Apparatus Report
Engine 3 (1989 FMC) broke down 2 weeks ago – the drive shaft fell out. We are weighing the options: a new transfer case for the pump is about $30,000 or a cheaper fix to rebuild it and get us through a few years for around $10,000. Discussion took place on options. The truck isn't worth the $30,000 and chances are something else will break on the vehicle.
Engine 6 (1976 ladder truck) is leaking transmission fluid and will go out for repair; cost unknown.

Engine 9 (1995 E-One) is having a generator issue again (happened a year/year and half ago). We are only getting half power; a voltage regulator replacement would be a couple thousand, but if we need to replace the generator it would be around $35,000. Discussion followed on if it makes sense to continue putting money into these aging trucks. We are trying to do Band-Aid repairs, but the bills can add up. We are putting in big money and then something else can fail. Chief Rowland and Chairman Alexiades met with the First Selectman and the Finance Director to come up with a better plan to replace some of these vehicles. The budget line is over by double; $60,000 in the line, $120,000 could be expended by end of FY16. A truck has a 20-25 year life span; old Engine 7 failed at 22 years. Discussion continued. The Town needs to give an idea of what and when. The Fire Department and Fire Commission give the oldest one the highest priority, but the other two are on fumes too. The need is great.

Fire Dispatch/Net Clock
Chief met with Police Chief Cappiello. Chief Cappiello is looking into things and will get back to us this week. The clock is needed to sync dispatch times.

Radio system
Chief reported there has been one meeting so far of this new committee. The next meeting is 6/29/16 at 3pm at town hall. Chief hopes to know more after that meeting. There is nothing else to report. Chief did note that on the recent Downs Road call, radio communications were sketchy and it is definitely time for a new system.

Air Packs
The new packs will be ordered in July. We are demo-ing some now. Staying with Scotts (what we have now). We will work with the Finance Department on how to do the lease/purchase. There is already $110,000 in the budget for the first payment. We will do fit testing; everyone will get a new mask.

New Apparatus Reports
We are working on specs. We have a ladder truck coming tomorrow night at 6:30 pm. It is a Pierce ascendant; not a tower, a straight stick – basically like what is in the bay except 107 feet as opposed to 56. Discussion took place.
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WFD Activity Report – Assistant Fire Chief Pocwierz (Attached)
Assistant Chief Pocwierz distributed and reviewed his Activity Reports, Statistics, & Vehicle Response Reports for May 2016. Calls of particular interest were noted. Discussion followed. Chairman Alexiades is interested to know if there is an increase in motor vehicle accidents and requested statistics for the next meeting. Chairman Alexiades commended the department on their response to the difficult accidents this past week.

Fire Marshal's Report - (See attached report)
Fire Chief Rowland distributed and reviewed Fire Marshal's report. Discussion took place. The Fire Marshal conducted 100 inspections from 5/16/16 to 6/16/16 and inspections of note were discussed. Five-six hours were spent investigating a boat fire. We are up to date with inspections.

Chairman's Report
Chairman Alexiades echoed what the Chief reported regarding the meeting with First Selectman Scalettar and Finance Director Genovese. The repair expense is extraordinary and the need beyond urgent. We need to move forward with a plan for apparatus replacement. Chairman Alexiades noted that even with approval today; it takes 1.5-2 years before we would see a ladder truck and about 15 months for an engine; two more

fiscal years before we would have a payment. Discussion took place on why replacing the ladder truck is the priority (JCC, nursing homes, high school, solar installations on commercial and residential roofs). Chief explained the difficulties raised by solar panels and the need for a ladder truck that is suitable from which to fight a fire. The impact of solar continues to be a challenge to the fire service.

We need to begin replacing these trucks. Finance Director Genovese came up with a level funding plan as directed; it was a good plan, but it was not funded. Discussion took place. E6 is out for service, E3 is out for at least another week and a half. E2 is the other attack engine and can replace E3 temporarily, but then there is no back up. Engine 9 has no usable generator. We've wiped out the necessary redundancy. Further discussion followed.

Executive Session
None
Action on matters heard in Executive Session
None

Correspondence
Chief sent a letter to AMR commending the job the medics did in response to two accidents over the weekend.

Other Business that May be Voted to be Placed on the Agenda (if necessary)
None

Approval of DRAFT minutes of Regular Meetings 5/16/16
MOTION (SOUFRINE/CARDOZO) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held 5/16/16 as corrected; MOTION passed unanimously (ALEXIADES/SOUFRINE/CARDOZO).

Next Meeting date:
July 18, 2016

Adjournment
MOTION (CARDOZO/SOURFRINE) to adjourn. With unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Michael Soufrine
Board of Fire Commissioners

Aimee Cotton Bogush, Clerk
Board of Fire Commissioners