

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, August 15, 2016 – 6:00 pm
Woodbridge Fire Department

Present: *Chairman Elia Alexiades, Vice Chairman Michael Horton (left 7:05pm), Secretary Mike Soufrine, Commissioner Bruce Mandell, Commissioner Mica Cardozo, Chief Sean Rowland, Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci, and Nate Case (Executive Board Liaison), Paul Kuriakose (BOF Liaison), First Selectman Scalettarr (arr. at 6:40pm).*

Absent: *Deputy First Selectwoman Beth Heller (BOS Liaison)*

Call to Order

Chairman Alexiades convened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Public Comments

Chairman Alexiades postponed public comment to later in the meeting to accommodate First Selectman Scalettarr's arrival later.

Liaison Comments:

BOF liaison, Paul Kuriakose, commented that he had heard how impressively well the FD and PD worked on two accident scenes in June and complimented the FD for their work.

Review Current Financial Statements

Year-to-Date FC Operating Budget

Chief distributed budget and reviewed it with Commission. Chief Rowland reported that the Repair/Maintenance line item has had several encumbrances (repairs on Engine 6 which were necessary and which could not be postponed) and the line item may be overextended by the end of the year.

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Rowland

Net clock- Net clock has been ordered at a cost of \$14,200 to be split between Fire and Police. Current plan is to have it installed at the PD, but their backup generator frequently leaves a gap in connection which may be a problem with reestablishing connection after an outage. FD has a battery backup, and then the backup generator which eliminates the temporary outage and FD would prefer to have it housed at FD.

Dispatch- Dispatching the Fire Department, particularly relating to times, continues to be a problem. Times are so inaccurate that Chief and Asst. Chief will not verify accuracy in State reports so none will be submitted. In July, out of 62 calls, 11 had missing times, 3 had no times at all, and 2 were not listed in CAD at all. Initial times are not consistent according to CAD entries so response times cannot be accurately determined. Chairman Alexiades had concurred with the Chief's decision, as of July 1, not to submit times which are not accurate so no report will be issued to the State. A message will be sent to town administrators that reports are not being sent. One ramification of non-reporting is that certain grants may not be applied for.

Chief Rowland and Chairman Alexiades will meet with Police Commission Chairman Rob Burke and Police Chief Capiello to address dispatch and the net clock. First Selectman Scalettarr arrived at 6:40 pm.

Discussion continued under Chief's report about the town not using the Everbridge system to alert a portion of the town during a recent water main break in Ansonia, which caused cloudy water in some households. Regional Water Authority had informed dispatch of the problem, but dispatch did not notify the Fire Department. Lack of pressure in the water main for hydrants could have been a problem and 23 calls from residents were received. There is a need for the Fire Department to have capability to send out an Everbridge announcement and there should be a capability to notify either the entire town or a small subset of the town.

Ladder truck: Chief Rowland, Chairman Alexiades and two FD members went to Delaware to investigate a used truck: 2013 Rosenbauer 115 ft T-Rex. Details of the truck and warranty were discussed. A tentative offer of \$910,000 was made which included loose equipment on the truck. An additional \$85,000 will be needed for repainting, on-spot chains, and a backstop bumper. Board of Selectmen approved the offer. A contract has been received and the issue must go to the board of Finance. A question was raised about whether the issue needs to go to a town meeting. **MOTION** (MANDELL/SOUFRINE) the Fire Commission recommends the town to effect the lease/purchase and re-equipping of the aforementioned truck for an outlay of \$995,000; **MOTION** passed unanimously (ALEXIADES/MANDELL/SOUFRINE).

Engine 9 has been wrapped in purple to help generate awareness of childhood cancers, particularly neuroblastoma, and provide support for Chloe and her family. An unveiling of trucks from Woodbridge, Bethany, and Orange was held at the FD last Friday.

WFD Activity Report – Assistant Fire Chief Pocwierz

Asst. Chief Pocwierz was on a fire call so written report was not presented. A recommendation was made to share online the “calls of interest” section of the report in future.

Fire Marshal’s Report - (See attached report)

Fire Marshal Cappucci distributed and reviewed his report. Discussion took place. Fire Marshal Cappucci also discussed a structure fire on North Ave.

Chairman’s Report-

Chairman Alexiades has nothing to add to previous discussions.

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 Meeting 6/20/16

Consideration of previous minutes was deferred.

Next Meeting date:

The next meeting will be September 19, 2016.

Adjournment

MOTION (CARDOZO/SOURFRINE) to adjourn. With unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Michael Soufrine
Board of Fire Commissioners

Nate Case, for Aimee Cotton Bogush, Clerk
Board of Fire Commissioners