

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2017 – 6:00 pm
Woodbridge Fire Department

Present: *Chairman Elia Alexiades, Secretary Mike Soufrine, Commissioner Bruce Mandell, Commissioner Mica Cardozo, Chief Sean Rowland, Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci (left at 7:51 pm), Paul Kuriakose (BOF Liaison), Nate Case (left at 7:51 pm) (Executive Board Liaison), and Deputy First Selectwoman Beth Heller (BOS Liaison)*

Absent: *Vice Chairman Michael Horton*

Call to Order

Chairman Alexiades convened the meeting at 6:12 pm.

Public Comments

None

Liaison Comments:

Deputy First Selectwoman Heller reported the Fire Commission's operating budget is on the agenda for 6 pm on 1/31/17 at the joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. While First Selectwoman Scalettar was away last week, Heller had the privilege of subbing in and seeing the amazing job the first responders and Fire Department did with the bomb scares. Thank you.

Paul Kuriakose commented on a phone call Chief Rowland had with the Chairman of the Board of Finance. He is happy to have the ball rolling to try and clear the air between the two boards and would like to see that move forward in an effort to bring the two together.

Review Current Financial Statements

Year-to-Date FC Operating Budget and Capital Budget

Chief Rowland distributed and reviewed the budget. The Board of Finance agreed to fund the replacement thermal imaging camera out of contingency. The meters were paid out of technical, but if needed they will cover the overage at the end of the year.

The work to move from 125 Bradley to 21 Bradley Road is complete and operational. The space is 100% conditioned, and the town saves \$711 a month in rent, has no utility costs, and a newer T-1 line. The lease is for 20-years with 5-year options after that.

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Rowland

Apparatus Report:

Repairs-

A line item transfer is needed to cover expenses to replace tires due to DOT regulations which require replacement every seven years based on the date code on the tire. We replaced the tires on S10, two front tires on E9, and all ten tires on T5. The used tires go to Public Works. Today we discovered R1 has chunks out of the sidewall and will need to replace that tire. **MOTION** (SOUFRINE/MANDELL) to make a line item transfer of \$4,200 from 53510 (repair maintenance machinery) to 55145 (tires); **MOTION** passed unanimously (SOUFRINE/MANDELL/ALEXIADES/CARDOZO).

Emergency lights on E2 and S4 need repairs. This is a good year to address the smaller items as we anticipate next year we will have to take tires off and check brakes.

Fire Dispatch-

Meeting tomorrow at noon with Tony and Chief Cappiello to talk about the next step. Not sure where we will go yet – looked at Priority Dispatch (close to \$100,000), Power Phone (\$70,000), and a custom dispatch program from Abe Colon from West Haven (\$40,000). Discussion took place.

Report on Status of Submittal of Fire Reports to State-

Same, no new report. Time synchronization is good, but there are some issues that still need addressing.

Radio System Committee-

Paul Zito was down and met with RWA to get a more definitive answer on sites for the new radio system. Expect to have a good price from Motorola by the end of next month. Regarding the radio tower, conducted test borings two weeks ago and a report is expected any day. Motorola/Northeastern have questions regarding zoning. The Radio Committee will meet when we have this information.

Chief reported on response to bomb threats to JCC of last week as well as on a water supply issue during firefighting response at the JCC on 12/5/16. Regarding the hydrant at the top of the hill, the valve in the road was turned off. Once it was opened, there still was not enough water because it was going to the sprinkler pipe. We are researching a dry fire department connection at the bottom of the hill on Amity Road. Chief explained how this would work to provide water to feed the whole complex. Three engines are needed to pump water to the scene. Chief and Fire Marshal are also talking to Brookdale and testing the hydrants there. The department is purchasing a hydrant flow test kit to test the private hydrants.

Met with CONN-OSHA; discussion to take place in Executive Session.

Chief reported on his conversation with the Chairman of the Board of Finance. Discussion took place on recent letters to the editor regarding the fire department and Christmas tree lights.

New Apparatus Reports

No report

WFD Activity Report – Assistant Fire Chief Pocwierz

Assistant Chief Pocwierz distributed and reviewed his report on for November and December; noting calls of interest.

Fire Marshal's Report - (See attached report)

Fire Marshal Cappucci distributed and reviewed his report. He has worked 50 hours on the investigation at the JCC and 9.5 hours related to their relocation.

Chairman's Report

None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION (CARDOZO/MANDELL) to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2016, meeting with one correction;

MOTION passed unanimously (ALEXIADES/MANDELL/SOUFRINE/CARDOZO).

MOTION (ALEXIADES/CARDOZO) to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2017, meeting as presented;

MOTION passed unanimously (ALEXIADES/MANDELL/SOUFRINE/CARDOZO).

Executive Session

MOTION (ALEXIADES/MANDELL) to go into Executive Session to discuss the injuries firefighters sustained fighting the JCC fire with commissioners, liaisons from Boards of Selectmen and Finance, and the Chief present; **MOTION** approved unanimously (ALEXIADES/SOUFRINE/MANDELL/CARDOZO), and Executive Session began at 7:51 pm.

Action on matters heard in Executive Session

Returned to Regular Session at 8:41 pm. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Correspondence

None

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

None

Next Meeting Date:

The next Regular Meeting will be February 13, 2017.

Adjournment

MOTION (SOUFRINE/CARDOZO) to adjourn. With unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Michael Soufrine
Board of Fire Commissioners

Aimee Cotton Bogush, Clerk
Board of Fire Commissioners