

**TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
Board of Fire Commissioners**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, June 21, 2021

Woodbridge Fire Department -**ZOOM ONLY**

Present: *Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz, Secretary Mike Soufrine, Commissioner Bruce Mandell, Commissioner Stephanie Ciarleglio, Chief Sean Rowland, Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci*

Absent: *Vice Chairman Michael Horton, Nate Case (Executive Board Liaison), Joseph Crisco (Board of Selectman Liaison to the Fire Commission), Susan Jacobs (Liaison Board of Finance),*

Call to Order

With a quorum (4 Commissioners present) and roll call of all in attendance, Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz convened the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

BALDWIN KRAVETZ requested a motion to go into Executive Session and invite Chief Rowland and Mike Boucher

MOTION (SOUFRINE) TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION SECOND (CIARLEGIO)

With unanimous ROLL CALL APPROVAL MOTION CARRIES AND the BOFC entered Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

Adjournment from Executive Session

Executive session ended at 7:45 p.m., no actions were taken. Meeting continued at 7:47p.m.

Public Comments

None

Liaison Comments

None

Chairman's Report

None

COVID-19 Update

Chief Rowland gave a summary.

More people getting vaccinated, the numbers are way down. Chairman Karen Baldwin-Kravetz asked if there were any reports of the "Delta variant" in Woodbridge. Chief Rowland responded that he has not been informed of any cases in town.

Review Current Financial Statements

Year-to-Date FC Operating Budget and Capital Budget

Chief Rowland discussed the reports.

He continued that we are ending this year and beginning the new fiscal year FY22. He will share a more detailed report at next month's meeting. Chief continued that he has spoken with Tony and will be doing some line-item transfers as there have been some overages. One is the Radio Line (#54240) over \$11,000. This is due to the unanticipated costs at the Racebrook Rd site (propane) and as discussed, unforeseen

expenses to rodent proof the generators. Also, the electric bill (building) is over \$7000. Tony is looking into this. The Town did a lighting upgrade and there is a 2 to 3 year pay back period. Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz asked if the electricity overages were due to any extra cleaning, and Chief responded no. Discussion followed.

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Rowland

Chief discussed the following:

Radio: Recently completed the upgrade from analog to digital. This has vastly improved the quality and area it covers. The sound is unbelievable, easy to understand and very clear. This will cover 100% of the Town and beyond. The PD also went to digital. Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz responded this was excellent news.

Engine 9: The Committee continues to meet as we are in discussion to replace Engine 9. The specs are almost ready and should be back to the Chief by July 1st. Once received he will present to the BOFC, then the BOS/BOF in August. There is a 12 to 16 month build time. Chief continued that first payment of the new engine will not be due until at least 2 to 3 years out. Discussion followed

Tower1: Went out for battery, brake, and AC issues.

Air Bottles: Chief continued that he spoke about this at the last meeting and has been speaking with Tony (memo was sent). This money may come out of contingency. These bottles are essential and must be compliant (last bought in 2 bulks of 30 and 10). Discussion followed.

Amkus tools: Chief continued. There is money approved in the budget for \$42,000 for replacement of cutters and spreaders. We will save over \$21,000 this year by purchasing these from the Amkus certified vendor which is the FD's current brand. Since this cost is over \$10,000, the FD will have to go to approval to the BOS in July. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Stephanie Ciarleglio thanked the FD and volunteers for use /set up of the Bay during last month's annual Town meeting. Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz also thanked the Fire Department.

WFD Activity report- Assistant Chief Pocwierz

Last month, 35 calls, 222.07 staff FF hours. Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz asked how this compares to last year at this time. Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz replied consistent with last year. The trend may be higher on MVA's.

Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz commented that she brought this subject up at last months meeting and thinks it would be a good idea to possibly do a public service announcement – partner with the Boy scouts or Girl Scouts about the dangers of texting while driving. Something to market to the public. Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz replied that in the past the WVFD did partner with DARE. He will investigate doing something similar. Discussion followed.

Fire Marshal's Report – Fire Marshal Joseph Cappucci

FM Cappucci discussed his report: 65 appointments: 48 inspections, 8 consultations, 6 plan reviews, 3 tent inspections. Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz asked if his workload has increased. The Fire Marshal continued that it has since he could not do any inspections for a year due to COVID closures.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz asked to table this to next month's meeting.

Correspondence

Secretary Mike Soufrine announced this would be his last meeting. He has enjoyed being on the BODC and hoped something could be accomplished with the Dispatch issue. Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz and Chief Sean Rowland thanked Mike for his years of service on the BOFC.

Chief Rowland noted that the Town sent out a memo that meetings can resume in house as of July 1st. Chairman Karen Baldwin Kravetz is in favor and noted if any one does not feel comfortable, they can dial in. Discussion followed.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina O'Connor Clerk
Board of Fire Commissioners

Michael Soufrine
Secretary