

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes of Special Meeting
November 9, 2023
Woodbridge Fire Department
<https://youtu.be/8KogNh2vRDI>

Present: *Chair Karen Baldwin Kravetz, Secretary Stephanie Ciarleglio, Commissioner Pasquale Izzo, Commissioner Scott Hunter, Commissioner Richard LoRicco, Chief Sean Rowland, Assistant Chief Ted Pocwierz, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci, Nate Case (Executive Board Liaison)*

Absent: *N/A*

Call to Order

With a quorum (5 Commissioners present) at roll call, Chair Karen Baldwin Kravetz convened the meeting at 6:02p.m.

Public Comment

None

Liaison Comment

None

Chairman's Report

Chair Karen Baldwin Kravetz welcomed the addition of Commissioner Richard LoRicco, introductions were made.

Chair Karen Baldwin Kravetz commented at the last meeting Commissioner Scott Hunter inquired of the idea of helping the fire department recruit and retain volunteers and wanted to start the conversion. Commissioner Hunter remarked it would be good to know where we have been and where we are going as a Town and brainstorm a bit. Chief Rowland commented that the BOS did approve the tax abatement increase last month and this is a valuable tool in recruitment and retention. Commissioner Hunter continued that another idea would be scholarship assistance and residency down payment assistance. Chief continued. There is a bond program currently available – more of mutual money account to firefighters that meet their quota. We would like to think about buying into the Town's health insurance and short/long term disability. Chair Karen Baldwin Kravetz commented that these are all good ideas and would like to keep this topic as a running agenda line item. Discussion followed.

Review Current Financial Statements

Chief Rowland discussed the current financials. The packet was sent prior to the BOFC. Chief commented that are ok for now and will discuss extra expenses in his report.

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Rowland

Fire Chief Report: The 12th annual Truck or Treat was held on Halloween. It is the Town's largest event. The turnout was not as great as previous years as the Town would not allow a firework display (done in years past) due to the opposition of the dog park at the Fitzgerald property. The department does close down the park at noon and cleans up the property of any debris the next day so that the dog's won't get sick if they eat it. It is a safe event and are open to suggestions to try to have it next year. Chair Karen Baldwin

Kravetz would like to keep this conversation open as the BOFC does support this event. Discussion followed.

Chief continued. Engine 2 and 3 were out for minor repairs. The Tankers will go out next for preventative maintenance. Three members of the FD are going to Minnesota at the end of the month to inspect Engine 9 which should arrive in January. The STEAP grant for \$500,000 was approved for the new training facility in the back of the Fire Department. Construction bids will go to the BOS next week. We have been working with Tony Genovese and things are moving forward which is great.

The annual FDIC expo is next April in Indianapolis. This is a great conference that we went to last year which showcases innovations in training, equipment and apparatus. We will be looking to replace the Aerial and they will have models. The cost for the conference is roughly \$6000 is already budgeted and will come out of the training line. Chair Karen Baldwin Kravetz asked who would be attending. Chief continued it would be himself, Chief Engineer Jim Kaoud and RJ Kaoud who assisted with programming all the radios. Discussion followed.

Motion for Commission to approve attendance at FDIC Conference

Chair BALDWIN KRAVETZ requested a Motion for Commission to approve up to \$6,000 in reimbursement for expenses related to attendance at FDIC Annual Conference in Indianapolis for three members of the Fire Department.

Commissioner Ciarleglio made the motion.

Commissioner Hunter seconded.

No further discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chief continued. The microgrid has been taking some big hits/surges to the not only the FD, but the PD and Amity High School. Some expenses have come up that have not been budgeted for (elevator failed due to the power outage) Moving forward, we are looking into surge protectors and try to get off of the microgrid. We also had a heat issue with the air tank in the boiler room and required emergency repair which cost roughly \$10,000. Discussion followed.

WFD Activity report- Assistant Chief Pocwierz

The Assistant Chief discussed his report (previously sent to the BOFC) with the numbers and types of calls from August, September and October (97 in total).

Fire Marshal's Report – Fire Marshal Joseph Cappucci

FM Cappucci discussed his report of inspections from the last 4 months (we have a new computer system and reports are still pending). There were roughly 180 inspections in that time frame. The FM also conducted fire prevention at area schools and day care facilities. Roughly 900 kids participated. Nate Case was a great help with all the events.

Correspondence

Tina O'Connor read 4 pieces of correspondence. A letter from the Vine residence thanking the FD for their assistance with a "water emergency". A letter from the Simpson residence thanking the Fire Marshal for checking and replacing her CO detector. A letter from Woodbridge Rec. Dept. thanking the FD for their assistance in the annual road race. A letter from the OVFD thanking the FD for mutual aid at a fire at the Secretary's home in Orange

Approval of August 21 2023 meeting minutes

Chair BALDWIN KRAVETZ requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 21, 2023

Commissioner Hunter made the motion.

Commissioner Izzo seconded.

No Discussion.

Motion passed. Four in favor, one abstention (Commissioner LoRicco).

Next meeting date

Special meeting on December 4 at 6:00pm via ZOOM

Adjournment

Chair BALDWIN KRAVETZ requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Izzo made the motion. Commissioner Ciarleglio seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:44pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tina O'Connor Clerk
Board of Fire Commissioners

Stephanie Ciarleglio
Secretary