

MINUTES OF BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 23, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.  
Fire Department Headquarters

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners Riccio, Clem, Ahern and Fox. Commissioner LaCroix was absent. Also present was Chief Mahoney and Assistant Chief Brian Koczak.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to approve the meeting minutes of January 26, 2023 and February 16, 2023 (special meeting). Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that several members of the department on two separate occasions have been recognized by Yale Center for Emergency Medical for treating both heart attack and stroke. On behalf of the Commission he extended his appreciation to all the volunteer and career firefighters for their dedication and hard work.

Finance – Commissioner Riccio reviewed proposed transfers from various accounts. Motion made by Commissioner Fox to add three transfers to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to approve the following transfers:

<b>From:</b>		
<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10142040-517000	Regular Wages & Salaries	\$80,000.00

<b>TO:</b>		
<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10142040-518000	Overtime	\$80,000.00

<b>From:</b>		
<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10142040-533530	Employment & Testing	\$6,000.00

<b>TO:</b>		
<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10142040-566900	Other Supplies	\$6,000.00

<b>From:</b>		
<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10142040-555300	Communications	\$6,000.00

<b>TO:</b>		
<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10142040-544300	Purchased Services, Repair & Maint.	\$6,000.00

Seconded by Clem. Vote unanimous.

Chief Mahoney reported that a request has been submitted to the Board of Finance to place \$250,000 in contingency to address the staffing issues.

Training – Commissioner Clem provided a brief report of the ongoing training activities. The crews have been training at a home that is scheduled for demolition. The DPW is planning to dig a trench for specialized trench training. Refresher training continues. A community wide CPR training was held at the beginning of March and was well attended.

Apparatus – Chief Mahoney provided a brief overview.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that annual ambulance revenue is expected to exceed the revenue target of \$1,725,000 by \$300,000 for this fiscal year. There have been 3,766 EMS incidents from July 1, 2021 – March 22, 2023 resulting in 2,929 transports.

Buildings – Commissioner Ahern reported that the second floor of Station 9 is almost complete. The stone veneer is scheduled for next week. The cooking hood should be here soon. The electric vehicle charging stations at Headquarters are now active. The radiant floor hear at Headquarters has been repaired.

Pensions and Communications – Commissioner Clem reported that only 21 volunteers received pension credit down from 34 last year. Volunteer numbers continue to be down. Discussion took place concerning the decrease in volunteerism among all service groups.

Chief's Report – The Chief reported that the department has responded to 4,877 calls for service. He reported that the members of Companies 2, 4 and 9 have been working together to ensure at least one engine company with qualified personnel is able to respond to calls. This has increased reliability to some degree.

Assistant Chief's Report – The Assistant Chief reported that he is reviewing the Town's ISO rating. The town's current ISO rating is at a 4 and a team has been assembled to work on lowering the rating to a 3 or possibly a 2. They are working on expanding on the frame work of the existing staffing plan with a completion target at the end of May. He has been working with Deputy Chief Cudgma to develop Training Bulletins.

Discussion took place concerning staffing issues, the level of care, concern with the pending developments around town and the impact they will have on emergency response.

Discussion took place concerning the ISO rating.

There were four structure fires in five days from March 4 to March 8 including two at the same time. He commended dispatchers Greg Faust and Tom Coon for their handling of these simultaneous fire incidents and several medical calls that also occurred in that time frame.

Old Business – Discussion of volunteer and career staffing issues was covered earlier in the meeting.

New Business – none

Motion made by Commissioner Clem to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk