

MINUTES OF BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

April 27, 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 Clem to approve the meeting minutes of March 23, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that there is a large amount of staffing issues. A staffing report will be ready for the May meeting.

Finance – Commissioner Riccio reported that the budget is pending approval by the RTM. The request for \$250,000 for additional staffing will be presented to all the committees for the necessary approvals in the future. There are currently five firefighters out.

Training – Commissioner Clem provided a brief report of the ongoing training activities. Training continues at the Wakefield Road structure; Thermal Imaging Camera training was conducted with all volunteers and career staff; Staff has been refreshing on marine operations and equipment; Asst. Drill Master Lizee conducted Emergency Pediatric Care refresher classes for all paramedics; Asst. Chief Koczak organized the first department training bulletin.

Apparatus – no report.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that annual ambulance revenue is \$1,875,572. It is expected to exceed the revenue target of \$1,725,000 by more than \$300,000 for this fiscal year. There have been 4,239 EMS incidents from July 1, 2021 – April 23, 2023 resulting in 3,296 transports. Overcrowding in the area emergency rooms have resulted in longer turn-around times and increase hospital diversions to hospitals out of the area.

Buildings – Commissioner Ahern reported that Station 9 is almost complete. The stone veneer for the foundation has been completed. The commission extended its appreciation to Riccio Construction for a job well done. Resident Mark Steinberg ran a fundraising campaign to pay for the appliances and dedication plaque. He raised \$4,000 to date. GGB has been asked to paint the metal parts on the front of Fire Headquarters and provide a new mailbox.

Pensions and Communications – no report.

Commissioner Massey mentioned that the Fire Marshal's report was provided to the commission members.

Assistant Chief's Report – The Assistant Chief reported that he continuing to work with the Chief on the staffing plan. He is working on Station 9 with the kitchen hood install and appliances. Working on the next training bulletin.

Chief's Report – The Chief reported that the department has responded to 5,497 calls for service averaging 18.3 calls per day. He reported that there was two significant structure fires since the March meeting. The one on April 6, did not have a volunteer response. The second one was at 175 Brushy Plain Road and had only one volunteer coordinated response. Both fires were in multi-unit apartment/condominiums. The department strives for a 4 minutes response time from the station to the incident. The response time has become unacceptable long. To elevate that Station 9 needs to be staffed. The town needs a station on the east side of town. They are looking at 32 Acorn Road as a viable location so the town wouldn't have to procure another location. Staffing at Station 9 and the future station out east along with headquarters would cover 90 % of our built areas within a 4 minute response. Improved response time would also potentially lower the town's ISO rating.

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

New Business – none

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk