

MINUTES OF BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 25, 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 LaCroix, Ahern and Fox. Commissioners Riccio and Clem were absent. Also present was Chief Mahoney, Assistant Chief Brian Koczak and resident Greg Jerolman.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to approve the meeting minutes of April 27, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that two of the firefighters that were out on long term injury leave have returned to light duty and two remain out on long term leave.

Finance – Chief Mahoney reported that the transfer request was approved by the Board of Finance and is awaiting approval by the RTM.

Training – No report.

Apparatus – Commissioner LaCroix reported that Medic 3 Powerlift issue has been repaired, a faulty sensor on Engine 1 Ladder has been repaired, PM continues, Fire extinguisher inspections have been completed, Marine 2 and Marine 5 are all set and ready for summer. Marine 2 will be getting new lettering.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that two paramedics were recently recognized for code saves; one of the telecommunicators was recognized as Telecommunicator of the Year; annual ambulance revenue is \$2,054,519.39. It is expected to exceed the revenue target of \$1,725,000 by more than \$400,000 for this fiscal year. There have been 4,667 EMS incidents from July 1, 2021 – May 24, 2023 resulting in 3,648 transports. Overcrowding in the area emergency rooms continues to cause longer turn-around times and increase hospital diversions to hospitals out of the area.

Buildings – Commissioner Ahern reported that Station 9 is complete. He stated that public support has been tremendous. GGB has repainted the metal parts at the main entrance to headquarters; Shelley Brothers Monuments has added the names to the monument; they are working on getting quotes for the dedication plaque at Station 9. Discussion took place concerning the town owned parcel located at 32 Acorn Road as a possible fire station. The site could accommodate a 2 bay facility and preliminary review by the Building and land use departments agree that the property could support a new fire station. Motion made by

Commissioner Ahern to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending that the town property located at 32 Acorn Road is earmarked as a fire station. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Pensions and Communications – no report.

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

Chief's Report – The Chief reported that the department has responded to 6,057 calls for service averaging 18.4 calls per day. He reported that there was one significant structure fire since the April report. The commission recognized and expressed its appreciation for the efforts of Mark Steinberg for organizing a neighborhood fundraiser to raise money to purchase kitchen appliances for the Indian Neck Fire Station and the donations from Rich Balzano of RAS Associates, Massey Glass, Stony Creek Quarry and Smedley Crane. A draft staffing report has been completed and submitted to the commission members for review and consideration.

Assistant Chief's Report – The Assistant Chief reported that he's working with the Chief on the staffing plan. He's currently building out a website. Training Bulletin #2 is out. He has met with each shift concerning the training bulletins. Staff is feeling the stress from the call volume.

A charity softball game to benefit the Branford Counseling Center Branford Fire Department vs. Branford Police Department was held on May 21.

This week is EMS Week, in recognition a luncheon was held today.

Old Business – none

New Business – Greg Jerolman addressed the board to express his appreciation of the time that the Chief took to talk about the new Board of Education's security system.

The Chief also mentioned that combined active training was held on with the Police Department.

Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk