

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 14, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.
Fire Department Headquarters

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. Present were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners LaCroix, Ahern, and Fox. Commissioners Clem and Riccio were absent. Also present were Chief Mahoney; Assistant Chief Bloomquist and candidates for the Firefighter/Paramedic positions.

Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to enter into executive session at 5:03 p.m. to interview candidates for two vacant full time Firefighter/Paramedic positions. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. (For the record one candidate was running late and was interviewed in executive session later in the meeting) Vote unanimous.

Return to regular session at 6:01 p.m.

For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Present in executive session were: Commissioners Massey, LaCroix, Ahern and Fox. Also present were: Chief Mahoney, Assistant Chief Bloomquist and candidates Thomas O'Toole, Meghan Hayes, Shannon Filo and David Kent during their respective interviews.

Training – Chief Mahoney reported that refreshers have been conducted on Marine 3 and 4 operations as well as the Starfish Side Scan Sonar; Two hazardous materials technicians attended a refresher symposium in Guilford; Co. 2 members Fishback and Miller recently obtained their Fire Service Instructor I certification; Spooner and O'Donnell completed Rescue Technician Core and obtained their certificates; W. Andrews and R. Andrews obtained Firefighter II certification; Karpovich, Cudgma and Massey obtained Fire Service II certifications; Co. 2 members Bannucci and Krentsa obtained Firefighter I and Hazardous Materials Operations certifications; Co. 5 member Annunziata obtained Firefighter I and Hazardous Materials Operations certifications; Firefighters Mahoney and Brown obtained Rope Rescue Technician I/II certification; Firefighter Canny obtained Pump Operator certification; ICS Forms Review and ICS-300 was attended by all Chief Officers, the Fire Marshal, Captains, Acting Captains and Firefighter Massey; and ICS-400 was attended by all Chief Officers, Captains, Acting Captains (except one) and Firefighter Massey.

Apparatus – Chief Mahoney provided a brief report. Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to approve the purchase and installation of new electronics for the Marine 5 Fire Boat and award the contract to L&L in the amount of \$27,285.09. The Board of Selectmen approved the bid

waiver for this purchase at their meeting held on May 18, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

EMS – Discussion took place concerning the current ambulance billing vendor and possible changes to a different vendor for future billings.

Pension & Communications – Discussion took place concerning an increase to the Pension & Incentive Program.

Chief's Report – Chief Mahoney reported that the department responded to 5,600 calls for service from July 1, 2021 to May 25, 2022 an average of 17 calls per day. With warmer weather there's been a steady increase in call volume. Calls of significance included a motor vehicle accident on April 28 on Hosley Avenue involving three fatalities; An incendiary fire on May 13 at 110 North Main Street an investigation is still pending; The department assisted Guilford Fire Department on May 22 with a missing kayaker at Lake Quonnipaug. A victim was located and later pronounced dead at Yale New Haven Hospital. The Exit 56 radio site is complete and operating as expected. Supply chain issues with Motorola has repeatedly delayed delivery of the APX portable radio charging units ordered November 18. The ship date is now expected to be July 1. The build out of the new "First Due" department management software continues and hopefully will be live July 1.

Assistant Chief's Report – Assistant Chief Bloomquist reported that the incentive plan for part-time EMS members was implemented on March 28, 2022. Since implementation, the unfilled shift rate has dropped from 16.5% in December to 1.9%, so it appears to be working. Of the seven new part time EMS workers, five are working independently, one is finishing orientation, and one had to resign due to being unable to complete the training requirement. The new full time member resigned and did not complete the fire academy. There are five candidates to the Board today for consideration of conditional job offers. One is from the internal candidate list, one from the first consortium paramedic only list, and three from the most recent consortium list. The Branford Festival is this weekend. Fireworks June 25 with rain date of June 26.

Old Business – The Chief reported that they are still monitoring volunteer staffing issues.

New Business – Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to approve the request for a bid waiver to trade in of old Ambulance Power Stretchers toward the purchase of new Ambulance Power Stretchers. This item will be referred to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

Motion made by Commissioner LaCroix to enter executive session at 6:35 p.m. to interview one additional candidate to fill one of the vacant full time Firefighter/Paramedic positions Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

Return to regular session at 6:54 p.m.

For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Present in executive session were: Commissioners Massey, LaCroix, Ahern and Fox. Also present were: Chief Mahoney, Assistant Chief Bloomquist and candidate MacKinzie Williamson.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to extend a conditional offer of employment to Thomas O'Toole and Meghan Hayes as full time Firefighter/Paramedics, and should another F/T Position become open, extend a conditional offer to Shannon Filo. Candidates Filo, Kent and Williamson will remain on the hiring list until December 31, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk