

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
September 24, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Video/teleconference meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Present were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners Riccio, Clem, Fox and Ahern. Commissioners LaCroix was absent. Also present was Fire Chief Thomas Mahoney.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to approve the minutes of June 25, 2020 (special meeting) and July 7, 2020 (special meeting). Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Finance – After all the previous fiscal year end transfers there was a \$55,000 surplus.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that Assistant Chief Heffernan has submitted his letter of retirement. His last official day is October 30. Motion made by Commissioner Fox to accept his letter with regret. The Board extended their best wishes. Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous. Discussion took place concerning the splitting of the Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal position to have a fulltime Assistant Chief and a full time Fire Marshal. Commissioner Massey would like Fire Chief Mahoney to start this discussion with Human Resources. It's not likely to get another full time position in the middle of the year. Chief Mahoney recommended that they should negotiate with the union to elevate the position of Fire Prevention/Inspector position. It is his recommendation to split the position into two full time positions a full time Assistant Fire Chief and a full time Fire Marshal. An acting Fire Marshal needs to be appointed. Commissioner Ahern stated that there needs to be an Acting Assistant Chief as soon as possible. Fire Chief Mahoney recommended that Deputy Chief Bloomquist into the Acting Assistant Fire Chief's position.

Fire Chief Mahoney has taken all the job descriptions to the Human Resources Director for review and there is a meeting on Wednesday to discuss.

We need to look at putting in an interim acting Deputy Chief Training Officer position. This position can be filled with other officers with overtime or appointing an acting Officer.

Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to appoint Deputy Chief Bloomquist as Acting Assistant Fire Chief pending acceptance until such time the position can be filled. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to split the Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal position into two full time positions a full time Assistant Fire Chief and a full time Fire Marshal. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Chief Mahoney mentioned that we have two new firefighters that haven't been sworn in yet and he would like to hold a socially distanced official swearing in ceremony in the large room at the October meeting to provide so kind of normalcy.

Training – Commissioner Clem reported the everyone's been busy with training. One of the new firefighter has finished at the Fire Academy and graduated in July. Various ongoing training includes: Hazardous, Bloodborne, Hazardous Communication and Harassment. We had two divers attend training with Guilford at Lake Quonnipaug. We have members participating with live burns in New Haven. Branford will be hosting the Connecticut Pump Operators Certification course. Chief Mahoney also stated that we have been working on training additional marine operators.

Chief Mahoney also reported that the hiring process has been completed 20 part time employees. A majority are EMT's and a handful of them are in Paramedic school.

Apparatus – Chief Mahoney reported that Engine 5 is expected to be delivered at the end of January.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that EMS services are very busy. The EMS revenue has exceeded projections. The crews have worked very hard with all the COVID protocols and have done a great job. Commissioner Ahern also commented about the fantastic job the crews have done with the storms we experienced with roads being blocked, etc.

Buildings – Commissioner Ahern will be handling building reports. Chief Mahoney provided information about the Pollinator Pathway. Alexandra Demichek has been spearheading this project and doing a great job.

Pension & Communications – no report.

Chief's Report – Chief Mahoney reported that the department has responded to 1,800 calls since July. There was a boat fire at Bruce and Johnson Marina and looking at more than 1/2 million dollar loss. The crews did a great job knocking it down quickly and it is still under investigation.

There will be a hearing with OMES on September 30 to expand service. Chief Mahoney emailed the annual report to the Commissioners prior to the meeting for review and provided a brief overview.

Motion made by Commissioner Clem to approve the Annual Report. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Assistant Chief's Report – no report

Chairman Massey reported that Deputy Chief Bloomquist accepted the position as Acting Assistant Chief.

Old Business – none

New Business – none

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici
Clerk