

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
November 19, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.  
Video/teleconference meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners LaCroix, Clem, Fox and Ahern. Also present were Chief Mahoney; Acting Assistant Chief Bloomquist and Captain Craig O'Rourke.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to approve the minutes of October 22, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

**Finance** – There are no transfers to report. Chief Mahoney reported that some of the replacement accounts are being squeezed a little.

**Personnel** – Motion made by Commissioner Clem to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Technical difficulties were encountered. This item was moved to the end of the agenda. The commission did not enter into executive session.

Still one vacancy and moving forward with splitting the Fire Marshal and Assistant Chief into two positions. This will move through the Board of Finance and RTM.

**Training** – Commissioner Clem provided a brief update. 18 new EMTs and Paramedics. 5 members training for the state pump operators certification. 4 members were recently certified for Fire Service Instructor.

**Apparatus** – Commissioner LaCroix reported that everything is going well. DOT inspections are pretty much complete. Marine 2 and Marine 5 have been winterized. Equipment is being prepared for winter.

**EMS** – Commissioner Fox reported that the ambulance crews continue to be very busy. There is an increase in COVID positive patients. Chief Mahoney reported that from January to November 2019 there were a total of 3,204 transports. So far this year from January to November 2020 there were a total of 2,693. The lower numbers may be attributed to people being fearful of catching the virus by going to the hospital.

**Buildings** – No report. Chief Mahoney reported that the plantings are in. There's about \$30,000 left in the account to finish the project. Jim Carson and crew spearheaded improvements to the area around the yard hydrant. Concrete connections poured concrete around the hydrant to prevent washing out. GGB replaced the hydrant.

**Pension & Communications** – no report.

**Chief's Report** – The Chief stated that they are looking at new software options. Currently the department uses the Firehouse program and it is reaching its end of life and they are looking at new software to replace it. They are looking to replace the software in the next budget season. They are looking at several software programs. To date we have had 2,693 calls. We just completed the largest hiring of part time members. Fire calls have been down and our crews have assisted area towns.

**Assistant Chief's Report** – no report

**Old Business** – none

**New Business** – Discussion took place concerning the purchase of new gear sets (coat and pants). Captain Craig O'Rourke made a presentation concerning the purchase of new gear sets. Specs were developed and sent out to bid. The following four bids were received: Brigham Industry (Inotex) \$2,598 (the first fiscal year there is a slight increase in the second fiscal year). Shipman's \$2,845 (Firedex), Firematic \$2,895.39 (Morning Pride) and Shipman's \$3,134 (Globe). It is the recommendation of the Gear Committee to award the bid to Firematic for the Morning Pride gear \$2,895.39. It was the only bid to meet the seam requirement in the bid spec. Motion made by Commissioner Fox to approve the recommendation to award the bid to Firematic for Morning Pride gear sets at a cost of \$2,895.39 per set. Seconded by Commissioner Clem. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to approve the Board of Fire Commissioner's 2021 meeting schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to add discussion of the Fire Police Squad to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Discussion took place concerning the possibility of dissolving the Fire Police Squad. They operate as a squad of the Fire Department. There are no regulatory standards to follow. There are concerns that there is a potential for liability. There's currently 10 members. There are 3 members very active, 2 members not active at all, the remaining 4 have an average of 3 incidents that they have responded to. The Chief will send the Fire Police Squad members informing them that they should only respond to calls when requested by an officer. This item will be kept on the agenda for further discussion.

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Motion made by Commissioner Clem to enter into executive session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Present in executive session were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners LaCroix, Clem, Fox and Ahern. Also present were Chief Mahoney and Acting Assistant Chief Bloomquist.

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

Return to regular meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Clem. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici  
Clerk