

MINUTES OF BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

February 27, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

Fire Department Headquarters

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. Present were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners Ahern, Riccio, Conklin and Fox. Commissioner Lacroix was absent. Also present was Chief Mahoney and Assistant Chief Brian Koczak.

Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to appoint Captain John Cudgma to the position of Deputy Chief of Safety and Administration. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that there is one full-time firefighter/paramedic vacancy due to a recent retirement. That position is not expected to be filled until after July due to the next academy class doesn't start until late August. There are two full-time EMT positions open. Expect to fill these from within the part-time group. They are currently on-boarding 9 new part-time EMTs and 10 paramedics.

Finance – Commissioner Riccio reported that the budget is in good shape. Overall they're very happy with the bottom line. The department is fortunate to receive support from the public and the elected officials. They looked very diligently at reducing expenses especially since it's a revaluation year. Chief Mahoney provided additional information concerning the wages and salaries, overtime and longevity line items as well as the capital budget.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to approve the FY 2026 budget, subject to adjustments by the Finance Director and/or First Selectman. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Training – Commissioner Ahern reported that since the beginning of the year they have been able to conduct the following training: Safety and Survival, SCBA Confidence, Forcible Entry, Dry Hose Stretches and Search and Rescue. They have been take advantage of the recent cold weather and were able to conduct a refresher on ice rescue skills. Marine 2 Helmsman Training in ongoing. Annual OSHA-required training is ongoing, All paramedics are being certified as Advanced Medical Life Support Providers. Company 2 member Vincenzo LaBonia was certified as a Firefighter 1 and Hazmat Operations and is now an interior firefighter.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that Fiscal year-to-date ambulance revenue is \$1,670,080. There have been 3,675 EMS incident reports generated from July 1, 2024 to February 26, 2025 with 2,721 patient transports. With a 74% transport rate.

Buildings – Commissioner Conklin reported that the Police Department are completely moved into our building. Public Works cleaned up the back driveway, they cleaning up some trees and

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mulched. \$350,000 was included in the capital budget for conceptual design and price estimates for the proposed 32 Acorn Road station.

Pension and Communications – Awaiting data from Deputy Chief Murray for the 2024 stipends.

Chief's Report – The Chief reported that they are very busy. 4,706 calls for service from July 1 to February 26. Call volume is 4% higher than the same period last year. The Fire Marshal's Office completed a fire safety campaign collaboration with the Red Cross and East Shore Health Department within the Highland Bluff complex.

Assistant Chief's Report – No report

Old Business – Commissioner Massey reported that a letter was sent to the Board of Police Commissioners from the Board of Fire Commissioners concerning minor repairs to the building when they move back to the Police Department. A brief discussion took place concerning the increase in development around town.

New Business – Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to approve a request from Short Beach Company 4 to conduct a Fund Drive. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Massey swore in Captain Garrett Lizee.

Commissioner Massey swore in Deputy Chief of Safety and administration John Cudgma

Commissioner Conklin mentioned an article concerning the HASS alert system. Chief Mahoney stated it is something that will be looked at in the future.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to adjourn the meeting at 5:30p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Trista Milici
Clerk