

RECEIVED

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
February 23, 2017 – unapproved
Fire Department Headquarters

2017 MAR -2 P 4: 10
SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Massey, Clem, Riccio and LaCroix. Absent were Commissioners Fox and Carfora. Also present were Fire Chief Mahoney and Assistant Chief Heffernan.

Firefighter Eric Pironto was sworn in by Chairman Robert Massey.

Chairman Massey stated the executive session would be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to enter into executive session at 7:07 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Present in executive session were: Commissioners Massey, Clem, Riccio and LaCroix. Also present were Fire Chief Mahoney and Assistant Chief Heffernan.

Return to regular session at 7:44 p.m. For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Motion made by Commissioner Clem to approve the minutes of January 12, 2017 (Special Meeting). Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous. Motion made by Commissioner LaCroix to approve the minutes of November 17, 2016. Seconded by Selectman Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Finance – Commissioner Riccio reported that there were no transfers at this time.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that the swearing in of the new Firefighter just occurred. We are very happy to have him on board.

Training – Commissioner Clem reported that Liquid Propane Gas training was done with career and volunteer companies. Hose drills and Rope Rescue drills were conducted. Active shooter response and SWAT Paramedic training was conducted.

Apparatus – Commissioner LaCroix reported all units are in service. The new car 6 is in service.

EMS – No report. However, Chief Mahoney reported that the ambulance revenue is above the projection.

Buildings – Chief Mahoney reported that the Co. 9 Building Committee will be meeting on February 27, 2017. Assistant Chief Heffernan stated that there is an increase in requests for use of the Fire Department facilities due to the pending renovation of the Branford Recreation Department. Assistant Chief Heffernan presented a draft facilities application for the Board to review. Motion made by Commissioner Clem to approve the application form. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Chief Mahoney also discussed the future use of the pavilion. He stated that he would like to use the pavilion for storage and make some changes so that it can be used for confined space training. Motion made by Commissioner Clem to approve the change of use to the pavilion for storage and training. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Pensions & Communications – Commissioner Clem reported that the Pension Committee approved 46 Firefighters for pension credit.

Chief's Report – Chief Mahoney reported that the focus has been on preparing the budget. The department had 476 calls for service since the last meeting. There was a fire reported that is believed to have started due to sunlight and a glassball. There was a fire at a 2 family house on Gentile Place. The department assisted East Haven in dealing with a small plane crash in East Haven. There was a motor vehicle accident on Main Street requiring extrication.

Assistant Chief's Report – Assistant Chief Heffernan reported that he continues to be extremely busy in the Fire Marshal's Office. He has been able to conduct the requests for inspections but is behind in review of construction documents and other statutorily required inspections due to limited staffing. He has been working with Zoning and the Counseling Center on some hoarding cases. He is continuing to work on fees for plan review, permits and inspections. The next step is to meet with the Chairman and the First Selectman. Regional Water Authority is completing an infrastructure upgrade in the Laurel Hill Road and Queach Road area. They will be installing 17 new fire hydrants. The Route 139 bridge replacement project has started and will continue until December 2017. Harbor Street will close after the fireworks for the Harbor Street bridge replacement project. Cedar Woods is planning to move forward with the changes in 24 hr. staffing at the facility. He has advised them that this change is of great concern. In addition, he advised them that they need to seek approval from Planning and Zoning because this change is not within the original approves from the town.

Old Business – Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to certify the entry level career Firefighter Paramedic candidate list to be valid for a minimum of one (1) year and a maximum of two (2) years from the date it is certified. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

New Business

Co. 9 requested permission to hold a fundraiser at Stony Creek Brewery. Motion made by Commissioner LaCroix to allow Co. 9 to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Co. 2 requested permission to attend the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12, 2017. Motion made by Commissioner Clem to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

The Board discussed the 2017-2018 Budget at length. The Capital budget request is \$528,124. The Fire Protection budget is \$5,440,826. Discussed took place concerning the reorganization of the administrative staff. The Board discussed eliminating the Training Office and EMS Director positions effective July 1, 2017 and create a Deputy Fire Marshal position and develop a Chief level position that would include the incorporate the essential functions of the Training Officer and EMS Director positions. The changes in the proposed positions will not increase the total number of overall positions. The changes in these positions will not change the overall budget, the breakdown of salaries will change.

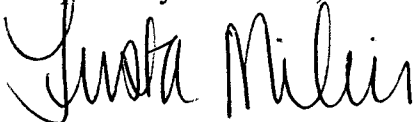
Motion made by Commissioner LaCroix to abolish the two current positions of EMS Director and Training Captain positions and replace the positions with a new Chief level position and reinstate the Deputy Fire Marshal position. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Clem to approve the budget not to exceed \$5,440, 826. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Assistant Chief Heffernan will be attending at mandatory Fire Marshal's training in Maryland March 3 thru March 17 and taking the town issued vehicle. Motion made by Commissioner Clem to authorize Assistant Chief Heffernan to attend the training. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Clem to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Riccio. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Trista Milici
Clerk