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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 23, 2017 – unapproved
Fire Department Headquarters

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

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

Motion made by Commissioner Clem to approve the minutes of February 23, 2017. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Finance – Commissioner Riccio reported that the budget has been presented to the Board of Finance. He also stated that the Sick Replacement account is approximately 17% over budget and a request for transfer will be made at the end of the year.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that there are three firefighters on light duty. One firefighter is out on long term sick leave.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to add and Executive Session to the agenda to discuss a personnel issue. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Training – Commissioner Clem reported that Ice rescue training took place with the MARSARS sled and OCEANAID inflatable water craft. Training also took place with the new TL9 surface stabilizer for the Hurst tool.

Apparatus – Commissioner LaCroix reported that there are no major problems at this time. Preventative maintenance continues.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that ambulance revenue remains strong and to date collections are 12.8% above budgeted anticipated revenue. EMS remains extremely busy.

Buildings – Chief Mahoney reported that the paving at station 5 is scheduled for early spring. Commissioner Massey reported that the Co. 9 Building Committee will hold a special meeting to review the proposal and scope of work from Silver Petrucelli. The new forms are being used for building use. There are still concerns with the additional clean up and set up for the additional meetings and activities that will be held at Fire Headquarters.

Pensions & Communications – Commissioner Clem reported that letters were sent to qualifying members. Commissioner Massey also reported that a letter was received from Local 2533 dated March 20, 2017 concerning the elimination of the EMS Director and Training Captains positions.

Chief's Report – Chief Mahoney reported that the department responded to 436 calls for service during the month of February and a total of 4288 for fiscal year to date. On March 9, the department handled 28 emergency calls in a 24 hr. period. A brush fire was located using a drone in the upper Queach property requiring mutual aid from Guilford and North Branford. At the same time a kitchen fire was reported on Wilford Avenue. Seasonal fire safety messages were posted on the departments Facebook page.

Assistant Chief's Report – Assistant Chief Heffernan reported that he just returned from two weeks of training. He stated he met with the WIS team today. He will be meeting to discuss the demolition of the Atlantic Wire property. A significant addition is proposed for 84 North Main Street. He had a meeting with representative of RWA concerning their meter replacement project starting this spring.

New Business

Discussion took place concerning the proposed new positions of Deputy Chief of Administration and Compliance and Deputy Fire Marshal which should be changed to Deputy Chief of Safety and Administration and Fire Prevention Inspector. Chief Mahoney stated that both these positions will still require additional vetting by the Human Resources Department and Labor Attorney. Chief Mahoney stated that he is hopeful that there will be internal candidates.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to adopt the job description of Deputy Chief of Safety and Administration. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Commissioner Massey stated that this needs to be subject to additional review and possible changes by the Human Resources Director and the Labor Attorney. Commissioner Fox amended the motion to adopt the position pending review by the Human Resources Director and the Labor Attorney. Vote unanimous.

Upon review of the job description of Fire Prevention Inspector, Commissioner Massey requested that under Supervision Received it's changed to add Fire Marshal after Assistant Chief.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to adopt the job description of Fire Prevention Inspector with the proposed change requested by Commission Massey also subject to additional pending review by the Human Resources Director and Labor Attorney. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Clem to enter into executive session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

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

Return to regular session at 8:07 p.m. For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Motion made by Commissioner Fox to direct the Chief and Assistant Chief to take appropriate steps in response to their findings. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Trista Milici".

Trista Milici
Clerk