Board of Fire Commissioners
March 2, 2021
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Room 4
Regular Meeting

Commissioners present: Jennifer Spencer, Bruce Dutch
Visitors: Rob Smith, Don Angersola

1. Call to Order 5:03pm

2. Acceptance of Minutes
   a. Motion by B. Dutch, seconded by J. Spencer, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2021. Motion passed.

3. Bill Approval: Recent submissions reviewed and discussed.

4. Budget Recap: Current expenditures reviewed. J. Spencer to review line items to assure they have been paid out of the proper lines. Overtime is high. It was noted it is high as the department had lost 3 part-time employees as well as a Captain resulting in overtime along with coverage after 6:00pm due to a late call for EMS/storm coverage.

5. Old Business: None

6. Visitors Participation: First Selectman Smith noted the department was doing well with career staff and response times remain good. He was down visiting with them that day. There was discussion regarding the effect on response when an EMS call is received from the Moodus side of town and the staff needed to go to Company #1 to get the ambulance and then drive back before responding. B. Dutch and J. Spencer agree if there was any way the EHAA could amend the PSA to allow staging/housing of one ambulance at Company #2 from 6:00am to 6:00pm it could certainly improve response and improve safety of residents. At this time for all ALS calls the extra crew will respond to the scene to assess the complaint until the transporting crew arrives. On BLS calls on the Moodus side of town the response will be adjusted according to the issue. This will decrease the risk of exposure to a virus especially if another 911 call comes in.

7. Fire Chief report: None

8. Fire Marshal's Report: All permits were assessed and there were no issues. A new restaurant opened as well as a new grocery store. Town buildings will be the responsibility of the part-time Fire Marshal.

9. Building Report:
   a. Company #1 & #2 for the Comprehensive Energy Efficient Facility Upgrade: This is a no cost improvement to reduce energy and will ultimately save $273.00 per month after

36 months. Motion by B. Dutch, seconded by J. Spencer, to approve the changes as presented. Motion passed.

b. There continues to be plumbing issues at Company #1. It has been determined that there is a possible design flaw which is affecting the system. D. Angersola will reach out to the contractor for review of the project. At this time, the women's bathroom will be out of service while further evaluation and planning is completed to resolve the issue. Two unisex bathrooms will remain with one of them being for handicapped access.

c. Company 1 sidewalk to be fixed this week.

10. Equipment Report: The ladder truck will need to be posted to sell.

11. Correspondence:
    a. None

12. New Business:
    a. The Board of Fire Commissioners received a resignation letter from Howard Bogue effective March 1, 2021. Commissioner Bogue's resignation was accepted with regret. Mr. Bogue has done a great job and has been an asset with his work as Fire Commissioner. The open commissioner slot will be filled following appropriate guidelines.

    b. Discussion took place regarding a noted issue with communication between Fire Commissioners, Volunteer Firefighters and Career staffing. There needs to be improved communication with a suggestion to have one person be designated primary contact point for all entities. The current plan is to meet with representatives of the volunteers, career staff, Fire Commissioners as well as First Selectman, biweekly or monthly to determine the best solution to improve communications. The representatives do not need to be officers, but they should have full knowledge of issues good and bad. J. Spencer will send an email to all involved to set a time and place that is work for all involved. This issue needs to be resolved to better serve the town. We are a team and are here for the safety of the Town residents.

13. Adjournment: Motion made by B. Dutch, seconded by J. Spencer, to adjourn the meeting at 5:54pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Spencer
Fire Commissioner