Board of Fire Commissioners
May 4, 2021
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Room 1
Regular Meeting

Commissioners present: Jennifer Spencer, Bruce Dutch
Visitors: Rob Smith, Don Angersola, Eric Kolasinski, Kyle Mosig, Neil Mosig

1. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 5:08pm, after IT issues resolved.

2. Acceptance of Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 6, 2021
   a. Commissioner Dutch requested the following changes to the minutes:
      #10a correct "on state website" to Town surplus bid
      #12d change "which tanker" to which engine

      Motion made by B. Dutch, seconded by J. Spencer, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 6, 2021 as amended. Motion passed.

3. Bill Approval: Recent submissions reviewed and discussed.

4. Budget Recap: Current expenditures were reviewed. The Commissioners also reviewed the capital budget with operations budget and the plans for end of year expenditures. It was brought to the Commissioners attention by Lt. Kolasinski that the equipment/gear costs have gone up and recently he was told the old specifications were used for the newest sets of gear ordered. Morning Pride had failed to add new specifications to the system therefore causing the error. Three sets have been purchased at the old price/ old specifications. With the new specifications the cost per set is up to approximately $3,200. This is an increase of $700 per set. The cost increase is due to improvements in the equipment with safety being a priority. Black gear has the best improvements. They now will change to red or pink when exposed to high temperatures. A firefighter will know immediately if he/she is at risk of injury with this improvement. It was understood that the change over to all black gear will take time due to the cost. The change to all black gear will help with recognition at a scene especially since not many have black gear but more importantly East Hampton and East Haddam each have the same lettering on the back EHFD. It was noted black gear is traditional for East Haddam as well. K. Mosig noted this will be discussed with the executive board to do the changeover to black gear in phases and dependent on budget. It will prove beneficial to do in phases so the gear will not all expire at the same time. The normal lifetime for gear is 10 years per guidelines.

5. Old Business:
   a. B. Dutch reviewed that two of the three officers Brian Auld and Ray Swol, who resigned in March are holding interim offices as Chief and Assistant Chief. The third officer declined a position as officer due to family obligations.

b. Company #1 bathroom locks are being worked on.
c. Cleaning of Company #1 Firehouse: A thorough cleaning has been done and will have regular cleaning to be every other Friday.
d. S-10 and ladder truck: These vehicles will be added to the Town surplus bid in the future. Until then they cannot be relocated. There is a possibility that another Town group will utilize the S-10 vehicle.
e. Duty Car: The duty car has been deemed not road worthy. Motion made by J. Spencer, seconded by B. Dutch, to request the Board of Selectmen approve use of the vehicle for extrication tool drill. Motion passed.
f. Duty Vehicle: Currently the utility truck can be utilized for chief and or officers when on duty nights and/or weekends until further notice. There are no issues with this plan so far.
g. B. Dutch noted that the bullet point list was not discussed at the executive board meeting last Tuesday as planned. He requests a list be given to Fire Commissioners at the next Executive Board meeting so issues can be addressed and avoid a recurrence of recent resignations.
h. Career Captain: At this time the Town is unable to assign to part-time employees due to the Firefighter collective bargaining agreement. Per First Selectman Smith noted there is a plan is in place to get an Memorandum of Understanding signed and in place so then they can choose candidate for Career Captain, a position that has been filled in the interim by Lt. Eric Kolasinski.
i. A work group is needed to discuss which pumper will be used when the Quint arrives – 2-15 or 4-15. The work group is determining for cost effectiveness, which truck to retire. Financials will be reviewed for the past two years as well as the mechanical evaluation of each vehicle.
j. The Quint preconstruction work group met recently and reviewed line by line the plan for the Quint. A tentative date for final inspection is December 22, 2021. Once Shipman's gets the apparatus, they have 14 days to get it to us and this will be dependent on them receiving full payment from the Town. First Selectman Smith noted that in the past when apparatus was retired there was a plan to either donate to another town or entity or to add to the surplus bid list. He requested the Fire Department get a plan in place. All plans would need to be approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners and Board of Selectmen.
k. A work group is being put together to design/purchase a new utility vehicle and convert the current utility vehicle as a Fire Police vehicle. K. Mosig noted a group has been put together with four volunteer officers and one career staff on the committee. J. Spencer asked if this was a fair representation of both contingencies. K. Mosig stated "R. Lenois can speak for the entire Career staff". He also noted that most of the meetings will be held at night where R. Lenois would need to be paid for his time and the work group does not want to cost the Town money.
l. Last month there was discussion that a volunteer was seen smoking on scene. A policy is to be developed for the Fire Department to reflect the same directives as the Town policy where no one is allowed to smoke on Town property or in Town vehicles and signs are to be posted as well.

6. Visitors Participation: K. Mosig noted they have the old extrication equipment which could be used for training and would like to donate to the Fire School. As well they have the old mobile radios which they want to donate. First Selectman Smith noted they can be donated to

a specific department or school. The radios have been discussed with Craig Mansfield and he will take all radios and work with Mike Scranton to donate to other departments. Discussion took place and all agreed on these decisions. Motion made by J. Spencer, seconded by B. Dutch, to donate extrication equipment to Fire School and the old mobile radios can be donated to Craig Mansfield and Mike Scranton for distribution to other departments. Motion passed. J. Spencer will send letter of recommendation to Board of Selectmen for approval.

7. Fire Chief Report: None

8. Fire Marshal's Report: None

9. Building Report:
   a. Company #1 issues are being resolved.
   b. Garage door issues are being addressed with remotes and pressure sensor pads and eliminating the eye sensors to avoid the doors coming down on any vehicle going in or out of firehouses.

10. Equipment report:
    a. The S-10 is on hold for use by Public Works. The Fire Commissioners, Chief and Fire Police Captain have agreed to allow them to have the S-10. It was requested the S-10 be evaluated for the surplus bid list by the executive board. It is not taken out often but does hold barricades for blocking roads with major issues. One issue is where to put the equipment in the truck.
    b. Lt. Kolasinski reviewed the motor for the Jon Boat is out of service. The motor is a 1988 motor and underpowered for our needs. A quote from Reynolds garage for a motor is around $4,000 but delivery could take several months. This could be an issue as we are heading into summer and the potential for increase calls for marine rescues. Discussion took place and research is to be done and discussed with the Fire Commissioners to ensure a budget is available as well.

11. Correspondence: None

12. New Business:
    a. Commissioner Appointment Recommendation: Three applications were submitted and reviewed. The candidates were Timothy Reynolds, Craig Mansfield and Marc Pisciotti. All were exceptional candidates with excellent backgrounds. Motion made by B. Dutch, seconded by J. Spencer, to recommend Timothy Reynolds as replacement for Fire Commissioner to complete term for Howard Bogue. Motion passed.
    b. Lt. Kolasinski asked if the Town insures non Town employees/non fire personnel to drive a fire truck. First Selectman Smith said no they do not cover that. Lt. Kolasinski commented there was an issue with recent fire report where it was documented that a member of a shoreline department drove tanker 1-15 to a house fire. The tanker was out of service as well. Discussion took place and it was noted that this is a serious violation and liability for everyone, especially the Town. Several unanswered questions are to be followed up on with an executive meeting. Who gave him permission to drive the truck, how did he get into the firehouse to get the truck at 2:30 in the morning, were there signs

noting it was out of service or just the Active 911 notification? The Fire Department was strongly encouraged to purchase signs to go in and on vehicles that are out of service.

c. Career callback policy was reviewed. The policy was read which indicated the Officer in Command is responsible for placing callbacks for career staff. K. Mosig noted it can be very busy at a scene and they may forget to call in career staff. The possible answer is to contact Valley Shore and make it an automatic callback done by Valley Shore once it is determined we have an active working structure fire or major incident. How to accomplish this task will be determined as soon as possible. There is a Valley Shore Mutual aid group, but it is mainly for shoreline towns.

13. Adjournment: Motion made by J. Spencer, seconded by B. Dutch, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Spencer, Secretary