Board of Fire Commissioners
August 3, 2021
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Room 1
Regular Meeting

Commissioners present: Bruce Dutch, Tim Reynolds, Jiffy Spencer
Visitors: Don Angersola, Chief Auld, Dep Chief Swol, Matt Swol, Neil Mosig, Kyle Mosig, Amber Lantiegne, Nicole Dombroski, Kevin Rutty, Bob Bennett

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairman Dutch at 5:00pm.

2. Acceptance of Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 6, 2021 and Special Meeting of July 20, 2021:
   a. Motion made by T. Reynolds, seconded by J. Spencer, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 6, 2021 with one change to line 1. Change last phrase to say, "Don't find fault, find solutions". Motion passed.
   b. Motion made by T. Reynolds, seconded by J. Spencer, approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 20, 2021. Motion passed.

3. Bill Approval: Recent submissions were reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the price of gear has increased relative to going to black color as the material is better against carcinogens and will change color if firefighters are getting too hot. Motion made by T. Reynolds, seconded by J. Spencer, to accept and pay bills. Motion passed.

4. Budget Recap: Current expenditures were reviewed. The new fiscal year budget is now in effect. All bills for the previous year were submitted today. The Fire Department left approximately $3,000 in the budget unspent.

5. Old Business:
   a. The bathroom at Company #1 will be completed now that the new budget is in place. D. Angersola will manage the project. Also, the plan to renovate the "pink" bathroom to a broom/mop closet will be done as well with the hope for the ability to install a mop sink which will be dependent upon proper drainage.
   b. New career staff: At this time the two applicants that applied for per diem positions have pulled their applications due to various reasons. One applicant still remains on the applicant list.
   c. Staging of EHAA is ongoing: It was noted that the EHAA may actually be submitting paperwork to have Company#2 added as alternate site for housing. It remains of concern that the day crew need to go get the ambulance at Company #1 after the tone has gone out. This of course delays patient contact and care. It is the Commissioner's hope that this is rectified in the next 2-3 months. This would be dependent on whether the Ambulance Association submitted the paperwork in time for the papers to be reviewed.

6. Visitors Participation: K. Mosig is an advocate to address the safety issue with the need for Career staff getting the ambulance. The suggestions have been made to consider stationing two firefighters at Company #1 during the day. This has not been agreed to for multiple reasons.

7. Fire Chief Report:
   a. Chief Auld also reviewed the issues with the ambulance housing. He also noted changes to SOG / SOP for all Firefighters especially related to vehicle response. Much discussion took place regarding the ambulance and changes in guidelines. Noting lack of response by volunteer fire staff Chief Auld asked for a heads up when the career staff is not at optimal staffing so he can "alert the volunteers". It was noted they are on call 24/7 and should not need an "alert".
   b. Chief Auld read a personal statement.
   c. Discussion took place regarding a career staff request to attend training. B. Dutch noted that he looks forward to reviewing the requests prior to the training being schedule. B. Dutch also asking for a review by a Union Representative regarding the process for requesting training and other activities including submitting a grievance.

8. Fire Marshal's Report: The Grove Street dry hydrant issue is being addressed otherwise all is well.

9. Building Report: There are no major issues that were not already covered.

10. Equipment Report: Apparatus is being sent for repairs and maintenance as needed. New SOG/SOP was submitted to East Haddam Fire Department.

11. Correspondence:
   a. A grievance has been submitted by a Union Local 3832 member. This will be reviewed by the Fire Commissioners per the guidelines of the collective bargaining agreement.
   b. An email was read from J. Adams noting his resignation and his concerns for the Fire Department and how it is run.

12. New Business:
   a. Commissioner Appointment Recommendation. There are currently four applicants for the open Fire Commissioner position. Per B. Dutch the recommendation will be postponed until the next meeting due to time constraints.

13. Adjournment: Motion made by J. Spencer, seconded by T. Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jiffy Spencer, Secretary