

Board of Fire Commissioners
February 4, 2020
Company #1 Firehouse
Regular Meeting

Commissioners present: Jennifer Spencer, Bruce Dutch, Howie Bogue
Visitors: Chief Auld, John Sarnik, Eric Kolasinski, Rob Smith, Don Angersola (arriving at 6:50pm) and Bob Bandes (Chester Fire Commissioner)

1. Call to Order 6:00pm
2. Acceptance of Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 7, 2020
 - a. Motion by B. Dutch, seconded by H. Bogue, to approve the minutes of January 7, 2020. Motion passed.
3. Bill Approval: Recent submissions reviewed and discussed. Motion by B. Dutch, seconded by H. Bogue to pay the bills as presented. Motion passed.
4. Budget Recap: Current expenditures reviewed. It was noted that the budget for building maintenance is high. This is most likely due to multiple door repairs. Budget for equipment is good with an expenditure for hose to be pulled for approximately \$10,000 as soon as the hose arrives.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Cameras: R. Turner is waiting to finalize the system and set up. J. Spencer to check with R. Turner as to timing of installation.
 - b. Smoke detector has been reconnected.
 - c. Exhaust fan has not been placed. J. Spencer to check with R. Turner on this as well.
 - d. CIRMA: C. Varricchio has been very busy with budgets to contact them to assess liability related to current extrication tools. J. Sarnik noted he has Lyme rescue truck as an automatic response for any motor vehicle accident (MVA). J. Spencer noted there could be a demonstration of several types of extrication equipment to better evaluate the equipment to understand the pros and cons of each piece. This could ultimately aid the department in making best choice for our needs. Discussion took place. Several attendees did not want to waste time waiting for demonstrations as the department is running a risk every day postponing this purchase. First Selectman Smith explained the necessary steps needed to get the equipment purchased as soon as possible. J. Sarnik and Chief Auld both noted that several local Towns have used and purchased the equipment from TNT and have documentation as to the testing done and recommendations. The equipment cost is approximately \$52,000. C. Varricchio has the information and the information was reviewed at the meeting. First Selectman Smith asked for a copy of the evaluations be sent to him. He asked J. Spencer to have C. Varricchio add this to the next Board of Finance meeting agenda so the process could be accelerated. Attendees were asked to evaluate the information for best options for purchase prior to the meeting. It

was noted that once the department commits to TNT and gets a contract TNT will provide the department with a set of tools to use until those being purchased arrives. Per the TNT website the equipment is guaranteed for life.

6. Visitors Participation: First Selectman Smith stressed the importance of bringing financial concerns forward now so the town can better plan for the future. He understands items will unexpectedly break and need replacement but most high dollar items can be planned for. He further requested setting a meeting of the three Fire Commissioners, C. Varricchio and himself to take a good look at the budget and assure all high dollar items are listed. He suggested that the Commissioners plan on reviewing the operating budget as well. J. Spencer will speak with L. Zemienieski to make arrangements for a special meeting.

First Selectman Smith asked about the grant for the Quint and if there will be any need to add equipment later. He doesn't wish to see any unexpected expenses to outfit the vehicle. J. Sarnik stated they have reassessed the requests and have reduced some equipment as it is non-essential. He indicated the apparatus will come with hoses, fittings and ladders and meet ISO apparatus requirements. The apparatus does not replace an engine. He reviewed that \$100,000 is being taken from budget to replace engine 2-15 for the grant. The plan is to refurbish engine 2-15 and possibly have money left over. First Selectman Smith again asked to confirm no unexpected costs will develop if the town gets the grant. He was told no additional cost are expected.

7. Fire Chief report: None
8. Fire Marshal's Report: Fire Marshal Angersola has submitted his budget with no changes from last year. J. Spencer asked if Fire Marshal Angersola has the Fire Marshal truck on his capital budget. Fire Marshal Angersola said replacement will be out at least 10 years so it is not on capital this year. He will monitor each year and adjust the budget accordingly.
9. Building Report:
 - a. The painter who was to paint the door is currently out due to a health issue. R. Turner noted he has someone helping him who will paint the doors as well as the pink bathroom in near future. J. Spencer to check with R. Turner as to possible date.
 - b. Doors at Company #2 are set. Company #1 door is fixed but as it is a new motor with a computer the timer setting is for 90 seconds. Being such a short window could lead to damage to the door at some point. The other doors stay open until the eye is broken then closes once cleared. Attendees requested that the remotes be reset again so they are similar to what they were a few months ago. J. Spencer to speak with R. Turner about getting this accomplished.
10. Equipment Report: E. Kolasinski noted when the air compressor starts up all the lights dim significantly. The compressor starts normally and was just serviced two weeks ago. B. Dutch also noted he had to replace the circulator on the furnace as it burned up. This should not have happened. Is there a possible electrical issue in the building? First Selectman Smith asked J. Spencer to speak with R. Turner as soon as possible in the morning to have it assessed.

11. Correspondence: None

12. New Business: J. Sarnik opened discussion regarding the need for another full-time paid Firefighter/EMT. Reasons include having an increased number of EMS calls, with both paid staff being out of town for a minimum of one hour, more commonly over two hours. This leaves the Town uncovered for Fire/ EMS. There is no response from Ambulance personnel with the exception of one or two on occasion. In the past two days the department had six calls one day and five the next. They were unable to cover all the calls. It would be beneficial to have a third firefighter/EMT who will work 6:00am-6:00pm (full-time) therefore leaving one Firefighter/EMT in town to cover.

Responding to so many calls now, leaves the daily chores not being completed. To this point there have been occasions where each ambulance had empty large O₂ canisters on each rig at same time. Today we found no O₂ canisters while on a cardiac call. There were none in the trauma bag either. The rigs are not being restocked and equipment not being ordered. J. Sarnik sent an email to K. Cavallo and D. Brown to apprise them of the issues and need for O₂ supplies. It was also noted that the Fire Department first in bags have expired epi pens. Fire Department has asked ambulance to make dosage packs for the Fire Department and training for R-1 to learn the new method for delivery of epinephrine. First Selectman Smith stated he would like to be copied on these issues and J. Spencer requested the same. First Selectman Smith will address concerns with equipment and decreased response with Ambulance.

First Selectman Smith offered to hold these meetings at the Municipal Office Complex as the participation has increased as well as the length of meetings is going over an hour as discussions are productive. Motion by B. Dutch, seconded by J. Spencer, to move the Board of Fire Commissioners meetings to the Municipal Office Complex and start at 5:30pm the first Tuesday of every month to begin March 3rd. Motion passed. The board thanked the First Selectman for his suggestion.

13. Adjournment: Motion by H. Bogue, seconded by J. Spencer to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Spencer, Secretary