BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Room 1
Regular Meeting

Commissioners present: Tim Reynolds, Craig Mansfield, John Cotter
Guests Present: Brian Auld, Ray Swol

1. **Called to order** at 5:01 pm by Tim Reynolds and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by moment of silence in recognition of 9-11 tomorrow.

2. **Acceptance of Minutes**:
   a. Motion to approve minutes from the meeting on 07/09/2024 by John Cotter, seconded by Tim Reynolds, Motion passed unanimously.

3. Bill Approvals:
   a. Bills to be paid were reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve the invoices as presented and discussed by Craig Mansfield, seconded by Tim Reynolds. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget Recap:
   a. John Cotter provided a budget recap noting the departments to-date spending. To date, for the 2023-24 budget year we received $583,044 and to date have spent $556,037.43 returning an amount of $24,306.57. For the 2024-25 budget year we started the year with $591.898 and have spent $92,642.08, leaving us with a remaining amount of $499,255.92

5. Old Business:
   a. Radios are in and getting programmed for the state system. Installation should be done in next month.

6. Selectman's Report:
   a. No report

7. Visitors Participation:
   a. None

8. Reports:
   a. Medical Division Report: See below
   b. Career Staff Report: No report.
   c. Marine Division Report: No report.
   d. Fire Marshal's Report: No report
   e. Fire Police Division Report: No report.
   f. Junior Division Report: No report
   g. Recruitment Division Report: See below
   h. Public Relations Report: See below
   i. Special Events Report: No report
   j. Fire Chief's Report: See below.

9. Building & Equipment Reports:

a. Building Report: See Chief's Report
b. Fire Equipment and Maintenance Report: See Chief's Report
c. Radio Equipment Report: See above

10. Correspondence:

a. None

11. New Business:

a. A discussion was held as part of the chief's report concerning the ongoing issues related to the rescue truck. See email below. Based on the discussion, recommendation of the Fire Chief and the ability to relocate equipment to other trucks with no reduction of service to the town, a motion was made by Craig Mansfield, seconded by John Cotter, recommending selling the rescue truck and asking the Board of Selectmen to relocate any moneys from that sale back in to the fire department capital reserve fund. Motion passed unanimously.
b. East Haddam was awarded a grant for $56K for 12 sets of gear. We will look at state approved vendors or a bid will be put together.
c. Craig Mansfield noted the public hearing for Company 2 was held last week. Thank you to all from the public and Fire Department that came out to attend the meeting.

12. Adjournment:

a. Motion to adjourn at 5:56 pm made by John Cotter, second by Craig Mansfield. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Craig Mansfield
Secretary
09/29/2024

REPORTS

Medical Division Report: Submitted by Assistant Chief EMS Jennifer Reynolds

- FD OPEN HOUSE - OCTOBER 12TH 1100 to 1500. The EHFD Auxiliary has agreed to donate $650 for the purchase of shirts for this event which we will be paying back after the open house and keeping anything above $650. All the planning is coming together very nicely, our flyers are starting to be distributed and it is also on our Facebook page. I confirmed with Lifestar today, they plan to arrive at 1100 and stay for about 2 hours, although they stayed for the entire time last year. Of course, if the weather is inclement or they are needed on a call, they would have to leave.

- POT LUCK breakfast – Sunday, Sept. 15th 10am at Co.1. This is for members only and as the name states, bring a dish to share.

- Training this month was on heat related emergencies taught by FF Kolek. It was well attended and she did a great job. September's training will be MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 at 1800 (6PM) DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES at COMPANY # 1 INSTRUCTOR: GUEST LECTURER.

- We had put out a directive stating that non-medically certified members are not to respond to medical calls. After some consideration we are changing that to allow non-certified members to respond. As long as another medically certified member is responding. When you arrive on scene you are to stage streetside until that member or members arrive. You report to the OIC or senior member for direction.

- DPH update - DPH has made a ruling on the appeal by EHAA. They are upholding the original decision and recommended to the Commissioner of the Department that EHFD can apply to be;
  - Certified as an EMS organization
  - Authorize to operate one (1) ambulance at the BLS level in the State of Connecticut; and
  - Authorization to charge for EMS services

  EHAA has filed a Motion to Reconsider and are seeking a Stay.

Career Staff Report: No report submitted.

Marine Report: No report submitted.

Tim Reynold's noted that the river has been very busy with Marine calls over the last month.

Fire Marshal: No report submitted.

Junior Division Report: No report submitted.

Recruitment Division Report: Submitted by Captain EMS Toni Myers

- Recruitment signs are in the process of being relocated and maintained. No new members at this time.
- A workshop was attended by the Recruitment and Retention Committee along with a few Members and the Committee found that we are up to date with what surrounding towns are doing.

Public Relations Report: Submitted by Captain EMS Toni Myers

- An article appeared in Quarter 3 2024 of the East Haddam Events Magazine.
- Articles continue in the East Haddam News
- The 4th Edition of The Siren should be in the Wed/Thurs Edition of the East Haddam News this week featuring Walter Parkus, EHFD's Secretary and Junior Ryan Solovei who attended the Connecticut Fire Academy this summer for Introduction to the Fire Service along with other news and upcoming events.

Special Events Report: No report submitted.

Fire Chief's Report: Submitted by Chief Brian Auld

CALLS:

ONE	HAZ-MAT
ONE	STRUCTURE FIRE
ONE	ILLEGAL BURN
TWO	MARINE RESCUES
TWO	CARBON MONOXIDE CALLS
TWO	APPLIANCE FIRE
TWO	PUBLIC SERVICE
THREE	MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT
FOUR	SMOKE INVESTIGATION
SIX	POWER LINE EMERGENCY
ELEVEN	FIRE ALARM
THIRTY-NINE	R-1 MEDICAL

74 TOTAL CALLS AUGUST 2024

EVENTS:

- **CAR WASH –**
  - THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH
  - FROM 10A – 2P
  - AT COMPANY # 2
  - $10 PER VEHICLE
  - HOT DOGS WILL ALSO BE SOLD

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE -**
  - SATURDAY OCTOBER 12TH
  - FROM 11AM – 3PM
  - AT COMPANY # 2
  - THIS IS A FREE EVENT TO THE PUBLIC
  - DEMONSTRATIONS, TRAINING, HOT DOGS, COTTON CANDY, AND MOST OF ALL, FUN FOR OUR RESIDENTS

- **SUMMER PALOOZA**
  - WAS HELD SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH
  - FROM 11AM – 2PM
  - AT HERITAGE PARK
  - WE HAD 7 PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

- **COLCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT WET DOWN**
  - WAS ALSO HELD SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH
  - FROM 11AM – 2PM
  - SCHUSTER PARK
  - LADDER 1-15 REPORTED
  - MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS WELCOMED COLCHESTERS 5 NEW APPARATUS TO THE FLEET

APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT:

- *BILLS – FOR TRUCKS – I WOULD LIKE THEM ORGANIZED IN FOLDERS*

- **CO # 2 BUILDING HEARING**
  - WAS HELD THURSDAY AUGUST 29 7PM
  - AT TOWN HALL
  - OUTSTANDING JOB TO THE COMMITTEE WHO PRESENTED
  - ESPECIALLY TO FIREFIGHTER KEVIN RUTTY, COMMISSIONER CRAIG MANSFIELD, DON ANGERSOLA

- **APPARATUS PREVENTATIVE MAINTENACE -**
  - COMPLETE

- **LADDER 1-15** – Q SIREN IS BROKEN
  - SPOKE WITH THE REPAIR VENDOR MANAGER – WORKING WITH FEDERAL SIREN TO REPLACE
  - CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON IS ALSO DUE TO A FAULTY CONTROL MODULE FOR THE REGEN CYCLE
  - WHICH WAS FIXED TODAY BY SHIPMANS AND IS BACK IN SERVICE W/ THE EXCEPTION OF THE SIREN

- **RESCUE 1-15**

- I SENT AN EMAIL TO THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS, THE OFFICERS OF THE DEPT, AND FIRST SELECTMAN HAINES
- THE TRUCK HAS HAD A REACURING ISSUE THAT SHUTS THE TRUCK OFF WHILE IN OPERATION
- THIS HAS BEEN A SPORADIC PROBLEM
- COST THE DEPARTMENT MONEY
- MOST RECENTLY WENT TO THE FORD DEALER / $10,000 FOR A NEW WIRING HARNESS THAT MAY NOT EVEN FIX THE PROBLEM
- **THEREFORE,** I MADE THE DECISION TO TAKE THE RESCUE OUT OF SERVICE
- ALL NECESSARY RESCUE EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN PLACED ON ENGINE 2 WHICH IS AT CO # 1 AND WILL BE THE FIRSTY OUT FOR RESCUE
- I RECOMMEND SELLING THE TRUCK
- LONG TERM PLAN – PURCHASE A SQUAD – AN ENGINE / RESCUE COMBINATION – ELIMINATING THE RESCUE TRUCK AND ENGINE 2-15

- **HOSE AND LADDER TESTING**
  - OCTOBER 9TH BY TOP RUNG

FROM ME:

- **EAST HADDAM FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILARY**
  EHFD Auxiliary report for September 2024

  Chief,

  1. The Auxiliary has once again started meeting monthly
  2. The Auxiliary met with Chief Auld and revisited the role of the Auxiliary
  3. The Auxiliary is actively seeking new members
  4. The Auxiliary has offered to help at the Open House function on October 12, 2024
  5. The next Auxiliary meeting is Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at Company 2 at 6:30 PM

  Thank you,

  Nancy Smith, Auxiliary President

- **SATURDAY AUGUST 24TH – OLD SAYBROOK 100TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE**
  - OUTSTANDING JOB TO ALL PERSONNEL
  - SPECIAL THANKS TO CPT SWOL FOR ALL THE MECHANICAL WORK TO THE BUFFALO, LT SPIRTO FOR PROVIDING DRILL TRAINING AND GUIDE ON, AND FF ERIC WALKER FOR LEADING THE DETAIL OF THE LADDER
  - THESE ACTIONS SUBSEQEUNTLY LED TO THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVING

BEST APPEARING AERIAL UNIT AND BEST APPEARING FIRE UNITS IN COATS

NOTE TO Commissioners Related to Brush Truck

Good Evening Commissioners,

I made the decision to take Rescue 1-15 Out of Service until further notice as indicated in my Active 911 message (sent today 09/08/2024)

The Rescue continues to shut off on its own without reason and will not restart. Boughton as well as the Ford dealership have not been able to identify the problem. This has occurred sporadically since 2023 and we have brought the rescue to either Boughton or Ford each and everytime. I firmly believe this will result in the safety to our personnel as well as the residents we serve if we continue to leave it in service.

The rescue has most recently been brought back to the Ford dealership at which time they reported to Captain Swol that they believe it's a wiring harness which would cost $10,000 to fix. Within the same discussion, they also reported to Swol that this MAY NOT FIX THE PROBLEM! Subsequently, myself and our personnel moved Engine 2-15 to Co # 1 and The Rescue to Company 3, where it will remain out of service. All pertinent rescue equipment has been placed on Engine 2-15. Below is the breakdown for apparatus response:

Engine 1-15 - First due out of Company # 1 to Fires and Medical R-1

Engine 2-15 - First due out of Company # 1 to Motor vehicle accidents, rescue, rope rescue, ice rescue, and to establish a water supply during structure fires

* Note - Engine 1 and 2 have a compliment of TNT extrication tools as does Ladder 1-15 and Engine 4-15 out of company # 2

Below are the bills I have saved in my files for repairs from Boughton - Commissioner Cotter should have the Ford bills as I do not. I do not have any bills for 2024

2022
2/9 - #5992 - $1,362.76
7/5 - #6184 - $909.93
7/5 - #6184A - $1,585.72
12/2 - #6454 - $372.96

2023
4/21-#6649 - $480.00
8/8 - #6807 - $939.23
8/11 -#6807A - $5,083.66

$10,734.26 TOTAL

At this point I would recommend selling this vehicle as I believe

#1 - Safety to our personnel and reliability to our public is at stake

#2 - Being financially unresponsible by continuously spending money at two reputable repair companies that cannot fix the issue.

#3 - Most departments are combining Engine and Rescues = SQUAD - what I believe the next truck purchased needs to be, Essentially removing Rescue 1-15 and 1997 Engine 2-15 from the fleet and replacing it with a Squad, a custom built apparatus that is equipped to fight fires and execute rescues

#4 - Engine 2-15 is now set up for rescue