

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
March 12, 2018
“MINUTES”

Present: Brett Salafia, Phil Visintainer, and Darin Hurne

Absent: Eric Germain

Others Present: Fire Chief Greg Voelker, Deputy Fire Chief Martin Swan, Assistant Fire Chief Pete Freund, Fire Marshal Rich Klotzbier, and Fire Fighter Charles Spakowski

Chairman Salafia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Company #1 on Barton Hill Road.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes will carry over to the April meeting as there were not enough members present from the Feb. 21, 2018 meeting to approve.

Public Remarks: None

Approval of Bills/Budget Report: None

Fire Marshal Report: Fire Marshal Klotzbier's report is attached to these minutes.

Fire Chief's Report: Fire Chief Voelker's report is attached to these minutes.

Communications: Chief Voelker received a nice letter from Regina Starolis, who lives in the house across the street from the structure fire on Knowles Road. She thanked the department for helping and sent in a donation.

Chairman Salafia stated that the Town Council has changes to the awards program on their agenda for the following evening, though a snow storm may postpone the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- A) **Possible Change to Death Benefit Portion of Awards Program:** This will be discussed during the April meeting.
- B) **Dry Hydrants:** This will be discussed during the April meeting. Public Works Director Michelson has not been available due to multiple snow storms. However, Mr. Hurne did speak with him and he stated that he will help wherever possible, utilizing his current equipment.
- C) **Action on SOP for Background Checks:** Chief Voelker distributed the final SOP document. No action needs to be taken by the BOFC. The Chief will file this and a copy will be attached to these minutes.

New Business:

- A) **Fire Police Membership Recruitment:** Currently there is only one Fire Police member. To supplement this, applications will be taken from outside the department. Chief Voelker distributed a list of requirements, benefits, training, etc. The changes to the awards program specific to FP that come from outside the department was discussed. This will be revisited as Chairman Salafia would like to do some research on this portion of the proposal before it is moved forward.

Other: Chairman Salafia rewrote the subsection for the awards program and the schedule to reflect the tiered approach. He also figured out the fiscal impact to the town in preparation for presentation to the Council. This will help retain members as there has been a decline in membership in the past few years. It was noted that we are in the minority for being an all volunteer department; most towns around us have paid fire fighters and/or officers.

Chief Voelker stated that he would like to be able to take funds for the appreciation dinner:

Mr. Visintainer moved and Mr. Hurne seconded to approve authorization for the Chief to receive the current fund balance from account 5633. Voted 3-0.

Budget update: Chairman Salafia plans to be present at the budget workshop meeting on Thursday to discuss the department & Fire Marshal's operating budgets. Mr. Hurne reported that he attended the capital meeting and the capital committee will continue their discussions, but that they were open to the idea of financing a new Engine.

Adjournment: *Mr. Hurn moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M.. Mr. Visintainer seconded. Voted 3-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary