

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
October 16, 2017
“MINUTES”

Present: Brett Salafia, Phil Visintainer, Darin Hurne, and Charles Gotta

Absent: Eric Germain

Others Present: Fire Chief Greg Voelker, Assistant Fire Chief Martin Swan, Fire Marshal Rich Klotzbier, Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Guest, Captain Christopher Lundquist, Fire Fighters Charles Spakowski, Don Scranton and Hunt Voelker

Chairman Salafia called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at Company #1 on Barton Hill Road.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017 regular meeting was made by Mr. Hurne and seconded by Mr. Gotta. Voted 4-0.*

Public Remarks:

Donald Scranton, Fire Fighter and Chief of the EH Ambulance Association asked for the Commission's support in his attempt to acquire a first responder vehicle for the EHVA. The vehicle would be suitable for one person to carry medical equipment to an incident. He has a letter of support that he is asking for the Fire Commission to endorse.

Approval of Bills/Budget Report:

- A) Possible Grant Class:** A class on safer and equipment grant writing will be held at South Fire District in Middletown on Nov. 9 & 10, 2017. Chief would like Ms. LoPresti to attend.

Mr. Hurne moved and Mr. Visintainer seconded to encumber \$450 for grant writing training. Voted 4-0.

Chief Voelker asked for a snow blower for Co#3, as currently members are transporting the Co#1 snow blower there, or using their own, to clean the walkways.

Mr. Hurne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Visintainer, to purchase a snow blower for Co#3 to be encumbered from account 5655. Voted 4-0.

Mr. Visintainer moved to approve the purchase of incident command vests for a total of \$661.25, from the Fire Fighting Equipment account. Voted 4-0.

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. Mr. Hurne asked about the fence at Co#3 and the status of its replacement. Chief Voelker stated that Public Works Director Michelson took a look at the fence, and may have come up with a less costly way to use some of the existing poles to create a 3' fence that will keep people from falling down the hill into the water. There was discussion on whether money had already been encumbered for this in 2016. This will be looked into and placed on the November meeting agenda.

Communications: Chairman Salafia received an email from Ms. Gustafson, who resides at 7 Barton Hill and who had received a cease & desist letter last month for her fire pit. She was frustrated with the Fire Commission's response to her at September's meeting. Chairman Salafia replied to her, citing the ordinances and State statutes and explaining that the Commission cannot circumvent those. Ms. Gustafson has not replied back.

The Fire Commissioners received notification from Bryan Bochinski that he is resigning from his position of Deputy Chief. Chief Voelker stated that they will elect a new Deputy Chief at annual elections in December.

Unfinished Business:

- A) **Sale of Old Ladder Truck:** No update. There is no hold up on the Fire Commission or Fire Department's end on the sale. Chairman Salafia will follow up with Finance Director Jylkka as he is responsible for disposition of capital.
- B) **Update St. Clements Fire and FOI Request:** The fire report has been finalized and copies were sent. Deputy Fire Marshal Guest responded to the FOI request for photos and interviews related to the fire. Statements were made to the State Fire Marshal's office, which will need to be a separate FOI. Deputy Guest stated that he has information for the requestor that she can pick up. Chairman Salafia asked for notification when she does so.
- C) **Update Cease & Desist Letter for 7 Barton Hill:** Fire Marshal Klotzbier corresponded with the DEP, who state that this is a neighbor issue. They suggested that next time a complaint is made he should witness the smoke. The C&D is lifted for now.

New Business:

- A) **Dry Hydrants:** Assistant Chief Swan will have an updated dry hydrant testing list for November. Chairman Salafia asked for a prioritized list for needed repairs.
- B) **Dispatch Concerns: Fire Dept. Response:** Chief Voelker and Police Chief Cox will have a conversation regarding issues. Chief Voelker cited a few instances in which the FD was not dispatched when they should have been. One example was a dumpster fire that the PD went to and deemed out. A few hours later, the FD was called to extinguish the dumpster fire as it was never put out in the first place. There was discussion on other examples such as oil spills and motor vehicle accidents with fluids down and the town liability.
- C) **Preliminary 2018-2019 Budget Discussions:** This year's capital budget is still frozen and in limbo as the State still has no budget. If nothing from the FD's capital requests gets done, Chief would like to submit the same requests for 2018-2019.

Mr. Visintainer asked about the lights for the stairs at Co#2 at this time – they are out and have been for a while. Chief Voelker will have someone look into this.

Mr. Hurne moved and Mr. Gotta seconded to add agenda item 10 D) Fire Lane at Center School. Voted 4-0.

- D) **Fire Lane at Center School:** The Fire Marshal declared the area around the island a fire lane. The Board of Education has already marked it.

Mr. Visintainer moved to approve the fire lane designation around the island at Center School. Mr. Hurne seconded. Voted 4-0.

Chairman Salafia and Fire Marshal Klotzbier expedited and signed the document to be delivered to the Town Clerk's office.

Adjournment: *Mr. Visintainer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M.. Mr. Gotta seconded. Voted 4-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary