

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

JULY 8, 2019

“MINUTES”

Present: Brett Salafia, Phil Visintainer, Eric Germain, and Darin Hurne.

Others Present: Marty Swan, Fire Marshall Rich Klotzbier, and Kenny Royce.

Call to Order: Chairman Salafia called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Company #1 on Barton Hill Road.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of the Minutes

a. June 10, 2019 Regular Meeting: *Mr. Visintainer made a motion to approve of the June 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes with no changes suggested. Seconded by Mr. Germain. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Public Remarks: Mr. Swan brought concerns that have been voiced to the commission members. The town is responsible for sending out an application for a 5th member for the commission. It was brought to the commission member’s attention that there were some vocal critics about the new engine project on some of the East Hampton Facebook pages.

Approval of bills/budget report: None

Fire Marshal Report: Attached to the minutes

Fire Chief Report: Attached to the minutes

Communications: Harlon Bacon sent a request for a payout.

Unfinished Business

a. Dry Hydrants Follow Up: The final report was sent out to the members. The report will be read and reviewed by the commission members to discuss further for the next meeting. Most of the hydrants only need to be backflushed to alleviate the blockage and problems of the hydrants. There was discussion about making backflushing the hydrants more than an annual task for the fire department. It was suggested to have backflushing be performed quarterly, as well as a part of the training for newcomers.

b. New Engine 212 Status: The project was approved by the Town Council and was sent out to Firematic with a 10-11 month turn around period.

c. OSHA Complaint Follow-up: The fire department is still waiting for the letter to be sent to the Town Hall. This will be tabled for the next meeting.

d. Physicals/Provider Update: The Fire Chief will be exploring different doctors and companies to see if they can accommodate the fire department. Fire department members will have the chance to get their physicals completed by the end of the year and will be compensated if they have a co-pay.

e. Public Act 19-36 Increased tax abatement: This will get rid of the tax abatement and pay out to qualified members a stipend; they would probably be paid \$1,000. This will be a topic on the Town Council agenda for their meeting.

New Business

a. Award Program Payout Request Harlan Bacon: Mr. Bacon requested a payout of \$6,000 from his tax abatement. *Mr. Visintainer made a motion to approve of Mr. Bacon's payout request of \$6,000. Seconded by Mr. Hurne. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

b. Tanker Accident: On Chestnut Hill the fire department was responding to a call. The tanker struck a fire department member's vehicle while backing up at the scene of the call. The police were called to make a report and an incident report through the fire department as well. The report was reviewed by three chiefs and a verbal warning was issued to the member. The estimated cost of damage to the car was \$3,000.

c. Bylaw Change: *Mr. Hurne made a motion to add the bylaw change to the agenda under Unfinished Business. Seconded by Mr. Visintainer. Voted by 4-0 in favor.* The commission members and fire department members discussed the new bylaw change. The department voted on the bylaw change and the results were 21-8 in favor. The new bylaw could help the fire department and the fire marshal's office define their roles and responsibilities while dealing with a call and the scene. The change could make the atmosphere stricter, which will cause for more problems to arise later down the road. The members decided to review the discipline bylaws and the bylaw change itself to have further discussion for the next meeting.

d. Executive Session: Preliminary Investigation of Pending Claims pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B)/ CGS §1-231

Adjournment: *The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM and the commission members went into Executive Session.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata