

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
January 9, 2017
"MINUTES"

Present: Brett Salafia, Eric Germain, Darin Hurne, Charles Gotta, Phil Visintainer

Others Present: Fire Chief Greg Voelker, Deputy Chief Bryan Bochinski, Assistant Chief Martin Swan, Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Guest, Fire Fighters Charles Spakowski and Chris Lundquist

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of New Commission Phil Visintainer

Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2016 regular meeting was made by Mr. Hurne and seconded by Mr. Germain. Voted 4-0, with Mr. Visintainer abstaining.*

Public Remarks: None

Approval of Bills/Budget Report: Chief Voelker had none, but stated that a bill would be upcoming for tires for the Chief's vehicle due to a flat.

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. Commissioners asked Chief Voelker about the fire at 13 Summit St. at the end of December. He noted that the Department had previously done a drill in that building, and had a pre-plan in case of fire. The plan was executed and worked. The third floor burned and fire dropped down into the second floor; the fire burned slowly for a long time.

Commissioners also asked the outcome of the Ladder Truck meeting that was mentioned in the Chief's report. Chief reported that a broker is going to give a quote on the current ladder truck so the town knows what it is worth when they try to auction it.

Communications: None

Unfinished Business:

A) Ladder Truck: Photos of the new ladder truck build were provided. A discussion was held with Kurt from Firematic, Town Manager Maniscalco, Finance Director Jylkka and Chief Voelker that Firematic will provide cash back to the town due to the delay in delivery of the truck. About \$7,800 will be returned, therefore making the total amount that will need to come out of the operating budget for upgrades to the truck only about \$6,000. The truck should be delivered the second week in February, then the Department will need to be trained correctly, and they will not rush into putting it into service because of inclement weather.

B) Building Code Compliance: Work is ongoing. Fire Marshal Klotzbier set a deadline of April 1, 2017 for it to be completed. Still left are the alarm system at Co#2 and exit and external emergency lighting at all three buildings. It was noted that the Fire Marshal has been generous with extensions up to this point.

- C) Awards Program Changes:** Data for call times were analyzed for the past four years of calls. For that time, about 50% of calls happen during times that volunteers who work “typical” work hours will not be able to attend. Each of those years about 20-23 people qualify for the Award Program by making a good year. Discussion was held on whether the current way the program is run should be modified at all.

Chairman Salafia noted that if changes are to be made, he would prefer to see a subcommittee made up of Commissioners and Department Members so that the program is tailored to their needs. Input from members was discussed, with all in agreement that if they are interested in changing it the members can and should contact the Commissioners. Discussions with members and taking a poll were brought up.

Ideas for potential changes and their pros and cons were discussed, such as: having a tiered systems in which members making certain percentages of calls have different amounts that are put into their accounts, weighting the calls, lowering the call threshold, creating a point system for members that work in other capacities for the department, etc.

It was noted that if the call threshold were lowered to 15%, 9 more people would have been eligible last year. If it were lowered to 20%, 3 or 4 more people would have been eligible. The data suggests that people are either making the good year, or not coming that close. There do not seem to be many people that are on the bubble.

The Chiefs will have a meeting to discuss this prior to the February Fire Commissioner’s meeting.

New Business:

- A) Awards Program 2016:** The reports have been received by Chairman Salafia and Chief Voelker. Members have until the end of January to check them over and they will be voted on at the February meeting.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. Hurne and seconded by Mr. Visintainer to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 P.M. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary