

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

August 9, 2021

“MINUTES”

Present: Darius Ledas, Eric Germain, Brett Salafia, and Darin Hurne.

Absent: Phil Visintainer

Others Present: Fire Chief Greg Voelker, Marty Swan, and JJ Burke.

Call to Order: Chairman Salafia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Company #1 firehouse.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of the Minutes:

- a. **July 12, 2021:** The minutes were tabled for next month's meeting.
- b. **June 14, 2021:** *A motion was made by Mr. Germain, seconded by Mr. Ledas, to approve of the June 14th, 2021 regular meeting minutes with no changes. Voted 3-1 with Mr. Hurne abstaining.*

Public Remarks: The town wide fireworks will be held on Sunday, August 22nd.

Nomination and Election of Chairman: *A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, seconded by Mr. Germain, to nominate Mr. Salafia as Chairman. Voted 3-0-1 with Mr. Salafia abstaining.*

Nomination and Election of Secretary: *A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, seconded by Mr. Ledas, to nominate Mr. Germain as Secretary. Voted 3-0-1 with Mr. Germain abstaining.*

Approval of bills/budget report: The Fire Chief sent out quotes for the fire apparatus to the members to review.

Fire Marshal Report: See attached.

Fire Chief Report: See attached.

Communications: None

Unfinished Business

- a. **Dry Hydrants Follow Up:** The company was contacted for an update for the on-going projects in town. A couple of the projects are still unfinished.
- b. **Ladder Truck repairs:** The Fire Chief is still waiting on the truck insurance to come back. There was 100 hours of working on fixing Ladder Truck.
- c. **Tanker Update:** The tankers are on order and may be delivered in October or early November.

New Business

- a. **Vaccine Status for Membership Discussion:** The vaccine was offered to the Fire Department members before the public. The department members need to obtain proof of getting the vaccine and would need to get the vaccine to stay a member in the department. It would be unacceptable for the members not to get the vaccine. There are a couple of members that still remain unvaccinated. A discussion with Lisa Seymour and the Town Manager on how to go about getting the members vaccinated. It was suggested to get advice from other emergency groups in the area on how they're going about getting their members vaccinated. Fire Department members need verification of 'already having Covid' claim as a reason to not get the shot. The commission members discussed looking into possible health reasons for not getting the vaccine shots. The Fire Department is taking precautions for the various calls to protect and try to prevent the spread of Covid. It was suggested to get the town's position on vaccine and to get some research on mandates for other fire companies and emergency groups in the surrounding towns.
- b. **Revisiting Long Range 5 and 10 year plans:** The Fire Chief is updating the Town Manager on the vehicle plan for the department. The membership numbers are slowly declining and would need more volunteers. The Fire Department may be coming closer to having a non-volunteer option for members. A building committee was formed at the last BOFC meeting for the Fire Department. The chief will seek members to volunteer to serve, including at least one BOFC member. It was suggested to have one or two members from the Fire Commissioners on the Building Committee.
- c. **Any other new business:** The town gives a stipend to the members that achieved the requirements for the awards program. It was suggested to have the commission go to the Town Council to see if the money amount for the stipend could be bumped up to \$2,000.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, seconded by Mr. Germain, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 P.M. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk