

# **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION**

## **Regular Meeting**

**April 11, 2022**

### **“MINUTES”**

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

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Fire Chief Greg Voelker, Marty Swan, Robert Rainville, JJ Burke, and Rich Klotzbier.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Salafia called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. at Company #1 firehouse.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Presentation Rick Stanchfield ACG Associates:** There was a clerical error where the social security numbers of the department members were listed on the copies to be passed out to the board members. Those copies went back with Rick to be disposed of before mailing the corrected copies to the Fire Chief. The department ended the year with some monetary gains and bonuses. The department ended the year with a little more than \$1 million. There were some terminated members and a couple new members on the list. The department's earnings were in excess of 15% for the year.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

- a. **February 14, 2022:** *A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, seconded by Mr. Ledas, to approve of the February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting minutes with no changes. Voted 5-0 in favor.*
- b. **March 14, 2022:** *A motion was made by Mr. Ledas, seconded by Mr. Germain, to approve of the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting minutes with no changes. Voted 4-0-1 with Mr. Hurne abstaining.*

**Public Remarks:** None

**Approval of bills/budget report:** Fire Chief Voelker let the members know the department would like to order 10 new badges for the new members at \$80 each. *A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, seconded by Mr. Visintainer, to approve of the purchase of 10 new badges at \$80 each which totals to \$800. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

**Fire Marshal Report:** See attached

**Fire Chief Report:** See attached

**Communications:** None

## Unfinished Business

- a. **Dry Hydrants Follow Up:** There is a plan to have American Distilling dry hydrant fixed at the end of May or early June. The department members have started testing the dry hydrants that have been fixed. Mr. Swan contacted Wind River in Old Lyme about investigating the confined tank. The quote for 2 guys on the job at \$4,500 and the environmental compliance fee was another \$20. It was suggested to check other possible options for investigating the confined tank.
- b. **Ladder Truck repairs:** There was an update for the Ladder truck in the Fire Chief's report. The ladder truck will be delivered to the fire department soon and put into service.

## New Business

- a. **Any other new business:** The members briefly discussed the raise for the stipend. It was suggested to check up on the stipend change with the Town Council to see what else they may need to get their approval. The Vice Chairman will draft something to send to the Town Council.
- b. **Fire Chief Presentation:** Fire Chief Voelker presented to the board members and attending department members about the discussion held by the building sub-committee. They held a discussion about the buildings at company 1 and 2. The conceptual plan for the new Fire House for the EHVFD will address the current constraints and issues of the current state of both company 1 & 2 fire houses. The structural issues, logistics issues, and utilitarian issues were addressed in the conceptual plan. With the new building; the idea is to consolidate both companies into one fully functioning building. The plan is to remain 100% volunteer but may need to consider starting to transition to career staff. It was suggested to ease into career staff, only appointing a couple members to be career staff to start off. The timeframe is uncertain. There is also an economic advantage to having all department members under one roof. The bills for one building would greatly reduce the amount of bills and money spent on two different buildings for both companies. The conceptual features of the new building would be to stay on one story, have solar panels, optimal location in town, can accommodate all apparatus, diesel exhaust ventilation, piped compressed air, administration areas, staff accommodations that factor in gender, and more would greatly benefit the fire department and the fire house building. A survey and assessment of both company 1 & 2 buildings was performed and found that both buildings can't have add-ons. There are some funding options for the new building like the Safer Grant, investing, or possible state funding. The board members will review and make changes to the presentation, if needed, and bring it to next month's meeting before sending to the Town Council for their approval. The members asked what the next steps would be after sending the presentation to the Town Council. It was suggested to keep this topic as an agenda item.

**Adjournment:** *A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, seconded by Mr. Germain, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 P.M. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata  
Recording Clerk/Administrative Assistant