

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 17, 2016**  
**"MINUTES"**

**Present:** Brett Salafia, Eric Germain, Charles Gotta, Darin Hurne

**Others Present:** Fire Chief Greg Voelker, Assistant Chief Martin Swan, Fire Marshal Rich Klotzbier, Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Guest, Fire Fighters Charles Spakowski, Christopher Lundquist

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

*A motion was made by Mr. Germain, seconded by Mr. Hurne, to add the following items to the agenda under New Business: 10b Update on the Grant Sub-Committee and 10c Worker's Comp Discussion. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

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

**Public Remarks:**

Chris Lundquist, Captain of Co#1, thanked the Commissioners for their hard work on the improvements already made in and around the firehouses, especially for the tree removal at Co#3. He is looking for an answer on the quotes for the deck at Co#1 that were presented in the summer. The lowest bidder has been waiting patiently to hear whether he was awarded the job.

**Approval of Bills/Budget Report:**

- A) Incident Command Board:** *A motion was made by Mr. Germain, seconded by Mr. Hurne, to expend \$1,495.00 for an incident command board out of account 5658 (Firefighting supplies). Voted 4-0 in favor.*

**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.

**Communications:** None

**Unfinished Business:**

- A) Update on Code Compliance:** Fire Marshal Klotzbier has not done a re-inspection. This will appear on the agenda for the November meeting.
- B) Ladder Truck:** Ladder Truck is currently being built. Photos should be available via Pierce's website later in the week. Delivery will most likely be in December.
- C) Ongoing Building Repairs:** Public Works Director Michelson and Chief Voelker will meet next week with the concrete contractor to sketch out when work will begin. There was discussion about the instant hot water heater: Mr. Michelson and the water contractor do not recommend piggybacking this on the current boiler because it needs to be replaced. They are recommending that this is all done at once. Mr. Michelson is obtaining a quote for this. Chairman Salafia will contact Finance Director Jylkka to find out what happens to the money that was previously encumbered for the instant hot water heater.

- D) Glastonbury Dispatch:** Chief Voelker gave background on the switch to the Glastonbury Dispatch system and outlined some problems that are ongoing for the Fire Department such as alpha pagers not working, the opening of Knox boxes, tones and sirens blown at the houses. All these items were unfinished and hinged on getting the new console for the dispatch center. The new console was obtained and installed two months ago and the outstanding items were not remedied. Chief Voelker has been in contact multiple times with the Town Manager and the liaison to the Dispatch center. The Chief of Police for Glastonbury has also gotten involved. There was discussion on an additional part needed for the console, which was ordered but never arrived and has been ordered again and installed, but isn't appearing to fix the issues. The day after this meeting, Chief Voelker was to talk with Gene Jopeck in Glastonbury to work on the issues with Spillman software as they relate to East Hampton.

Chief Voelker and Chairman Salafia gave more detail on emails that went back and forth between all involved. Chief Voelker discussed the possible siren issues at Co#2, and the fact that Valley Shore is being used as a work-around solution for the Knox boxes at this time. He mentioned that there are other things that need to be addressed but that he is trying to get these aforementioned issues fixed first before moving on to some of the smaller items.

Mr. Gotta asked about the worst-case scenario in regard to the issues, to which Chief Voelker explained it would be if a call was missed because of the radio/pager problems. Also noted was the ambulance department is having similar issues. Chief explained that the dispatch in Glastonbury is set up as a Police dispatch, which is why there are issues for the FD and ambulance as their system is not primarily for these types of departments.

#### **New Business:**

- A) Preliminary Discussion of Future Capital Requests:** Chairman Salafia stated that they should start thinking about capital requests for next year, which are usually due mid-to-late January. Holding to the 5 and 10 year plans was discussed.

Chief Voelker noted that at the last Capital Committee meeting he brought up the fact that replacement of Co#2 was identified as the third priority of the Facilities Evaluation Committee and Co#1 was fifth, and the town should hold to their own findings along with those of the JLN Report. Discussion ensued on the current philosophy of not spending money on repairing the existing buildings because they will be replaced, which does not seem to happen. As an example he noted the fact that Co#2 was not hooked up to the gas line that runs down Rt. 66 because the building is not owned by the town. Discussion occurred on department morale, and what would happen if there were not enough volunteer fire fighters and the town needed to convert to a paid department – which will end up costing the town much more than replacing or repairing the buildings.

Chief Voelker will send out a list, reprioritized for next year, in regard to possible capital requests. It was noted that Mr. Michelson has been very helpful to the department in the time that he has been the Director of Public Works, by way of obtaining quotes and helping them to get the most for their money.

- B) Update on Grant Sub-Committee:** Mr. Germain reported that the grant committee met a couple of weeks ago. The SAFER Grant could help with targeting high risk areas, such as unprotected waterways, by giving money for the department to obtain a fire rescue and suppression boat. Also discussed were smaller ticket items such as gas meters and

a RFID tracking system (apparatus software). Chairman Salafia stated that he would reach out to the Town Manager for grant writing assistance.

- C) **Worker's Compensation Discussion:** Chairman Salafia reported that he has been in contact with Lisa Seymour, Town of EH Human Resources to express concern on the cumbersome process of obtaining compensation for on the job injuries as related to fire department members. She is creating a flow chart that will succinctly explain the process that happens from when a person is injured to the end result of obtaining the worker's compensation. He stated to her that the current time lag is unacceptable, and she has been in contact with CIRMA about this. There is the possibility that the Chief will be able to file claims directly to CIRMA; further details on this will be forthcoming.

Discussion occurred related to the deck proposals for Co#1. The lowest qualified bidder has been identified and deck details discussed include: the deck will be the same size as the previous deck, it will be anchored to the building and footings will be drilled below the frost line, composite material with a 30-year warranty will be used, and it will be built flush to the concrete pad. It is understood that the concrete work needs to happen first.

*A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, and seconded by Mr. Germain, to approve the proposal for the deck as stated, to be built after the concrete work is completed. The motion was amended to state that the funds would be encumbered from capital account 23099. The amended motion was also made and seconded by Mr. Hurne and Mr. Germain. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

**Executive Session: Employee Concern:**

The employee and Chief Voelker were invited into the executive session.

*A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, seconded by Mr. Germain, to enter into executive session at 7:49 P.M. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Hurne, seconded by Mr. Germain, to exit the executive session at 8:29 P.M. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

**Adjournment:**

*A motion was made by Mr. Hurne and seconded by Mr. Gotta to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,



Eliza LoPresti  
Recording Secretary

EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424  
SANDRA M. WILBER, TC

2016 NOV 15 PM 6 19

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE