

MINUTES
Litchfield Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS
December 13, 2012 Meeting
Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road Bantam, CT

Members Present: Chairmen John Campbell, Paul Parsons, Doug Hatstat, Teresa Berry

Also present: Chief Rick Duffy, Chief Mike Berry

Absent: Commissioners Francine Spencer, Sam Kinkade and Fire Marshal O'Hare

Chairmen John Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by D. Hatstat and seconded by P. Parsons to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2012 meeting. Passed

Fire Commission Meeting Schedule – A motion was made by D. Hatstat and seconded by T. Berry to approve the meeting schedule for 2013. The meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road in Bantam. The motion Passed.

Budgets – Department and Capital – After a discussion on the budgets submitted by the individual departments as well as the Commission Budget and the Emergency Management Budget, there was a motion by P. Parsons and seconded by T. Berry to send the following budget to the Selectmen as the Operating budgets for 2013/2014: Fire: \$297,654; EMS \$54,372; Emergency Management \$5,763 and Fire Commission \$81,154. The Total requested is \$438,943. This does not reflect the Fire Marshal's Budget. The motion Passed. Bantam Fire Chief R. Duffy was in attendance at this meeting to discuss some concerns on Paramedic intercept charges that were raised by the Board at the November Meeting. First he explained the procedure for verifying the Campion Bills submitted to the Town of Litchfield which he approves for payment. He also explained that Bantam EMS personnel follow the protocol established by CHH and they do release or downgrade the paramedic response whenever possible. This downgrade is usually done by senior EMS personnel at the scene. The commission explained that the concern was not with the operation of Bantam EMS, but the cost to the Town of Litchfield for the paramedics. Bantam is in the process of discussions with their members on the prospect of starting a billing service which then could pass the paramedic bills to the insurance companies. These are only preliminary discussions. Chairman Campbell thanked the Bantam Fire Company for their explanations and felt that the Board was also satisfied with the explanations. There was a short discussion on the Town wide Truck Specifications. Chairman Campbell explained that these specifications will be guideline for future purchases of Common vehicles and not for specialized pieces, a department will have to submit explanations for any accessory or equipment that they would request over and above the basic specification.

Fire Marshal – There was no report to the Commission this month due to his absence.

Physicals – No Report

EMS- No report

Communications - Chairman Campbell received communication from First Selectman Leo Paul on two matters. First the Town is being threatened with a lawsuit by Judge Gill of the Litchfield Superior Court on the siren for the Litchfield Fire Company located on the Litchfield Green. He has stated repeatedly that the operation of the siren during the weekday hours causes disruption with court proceedings. Chairman Campbell explained that he has discussed this with both Leo Paul and Litchfield Fire Company and looks forward to an equitable solution. The second matter pertains to the Fire Chief's along with the Fire and EMS Commission developing a Hold Harmless agreement for homeowners to sign if the Fire Departments are involved in any type of training fires on private property. The First selectman has offered the assistance of the Town Attorney on this matter. The Chairman would like to see this completed by spring.

With No other business a motion was made by T. Berry and seconded by D. Hatstat to adjourn the meeting. Passed 8:05 PM

Board of Fire Commissioners and EMS

Date