

# MINUTES

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## Board of Fire Engineers Board, Committee, Office, Etc.

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Date: August 14, 2017 Time: 6:30 P.M.  
Present: Chief Hamilton, Deputy Chief Rudge, Asst. Chief Gasco,  
Asst. Chief Piscitelli, Asst. Chief Silver  
Absent: None

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Minutes from July 10, 2017 were approved. Invoices were signed. Mail was read. Account balances were reviewed.

### **6:45 P.M. FF. ANDREW RAFFA**

FF. Andrew Raffa met with the Board to discuss his low attendance. His Monday night attendance is good but alarm response is low. He said he is involved with the Boy Scouts and work has been busy. He will try to improve.

### **7:00 P.M. FF. NICHOLAS RINALDO**

FF. Rinaldo did not appear for his meeting and did not contact Chief Hamilton. Due to his lack of attendance since returning from his leave, Deputy Chief Rudge made a motion to dismiss him from the Fire Department. Asst. Chief Gasco made a second to the motion and it carried on a 5-0 vote.

### **7:30 P.M. LT. MICHAEL COUTURE**

Board members reviewed the events that happened at the Burbank Street fire before Lt. Couture appeared for his meeting. Asst. Chief Silver said he spoke with Lt. Couture to get his side of the story and reported Couture had called the individuals involved and apologized-saying it was not intentional.

Lt. Couture came into the meeting. Asst. Chief Gasco explained what he had been told about one incident and how he contacted those involved. Deputy Chief Rudge and Asst. Chief Piscitelli stated their disappointment in the actions of a company officer. Asst. Chief Silver said he was all set and had nothing further to add. Chief Hamilton said he too was not happy with what he heard. Lt. Couture responded that the incident did not happen as they described. He grabbed the hose to wet down a hot spot over a window. He did not know anything happened until two weeks later when Lt. Cadrin started yelling at him at a training session. Lt. Couture said it was after this that he called the individuals and apologized.

Chief Hamilton told the Board about the incident he witnessed and felt Lt. Couture snapped at the guys involved-which was not necessary. Lt. Couture said he did not remember the incident.

Before leaving the meeting, Asst. Chief Gasco told Lt. Couture that when given a red helmet, respect does not come with it. You have to earn it from the guys. Lt. Couture left at this time.

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
SEP 13 PM 1:18  
MILBURY MASS

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Discussion took place. Deputy Chief Rudge said the first incident would turn into one person's word against another. He felt Lt. Couture should be reprimanded for the second incident and it should be a written reprimand. Asst. Chief Silver felt a verbal reprimand was sufficient as he never witnessed Lt. Couture goofing off at any incident. He also asked if Lt. Cadrin would be brought in for his actions. Further discussion took place. Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion to give a written reprimand to Lt. Couture for his actions at the Burbank Street fire witnessed by Chief Hamilton. Deputy Chief Rudge made a second to the motion and it carried on a 4-1 vote with Asst. Chief Silver opposed.

Chief Hamilton asked what the Board wanted to do about Lt. Cadrin. Asst. Chief Piscitelli agreed he should be brought in. The Board agreed to have him come in on 9/11/17.

### PRE INCIDENT PLANS

There was nothing new to report on pre incident plans.

### OLD & NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Hamilton told the Board about several outdoor burning violations that recently took place. Warnings were issued and fines will be assessed for further violations.
- FF. John Nicholson submitted a request for a medical leave beginning 6/13/17. Deputy Chief Rudge made a motion to approve a medical leave for John Nicholson retroactive to 6/13/17. Asst. Chief Silver made a second to the motion and it carried on a 5-0 vote.
- FF. Medina met with Chief Hamilton last week to discuss his low attendance. He could not make tonight's meeting because he was working mandatory overtime. Discussion took place. The Board will not reappoint FF. Medina until he meets with them. He is to come in on 9/11/17.
- FF. Morrissey could not make tonight's meeting because he was training for a new position. The Board will not reappoint FF. Morrissey until he meets with them. He is to come in on 9/11/17.
- Engine 1 will participate in Mendon's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade on 9/24/17.
- Chief Hamilton said Engine 1 is next to have the lights converted. Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion to have the lights on Engine 1 changed over to LED. Asst. Chief Piscitelli made a second to the motion and it carried on a 5-0 vote.
- While returning from S.V.I., the hose bed cover flew off Engine 1 and was damaged. It will be taken to New England Trim for repair.
- Chief Hamilton told the Board that when 4" hose conversions were done, the pump panels were changed to 4" intakes. For better visibility, a 2 ½" Y stortz is needed. The cost is \$1250. Discussion took place. Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion to purchase one 2 ½" stortz to be placed with the bag

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- equipment. This was seconded by Deputy Chief Rudge and carried on a 5-0 vote. Another may be purchased later in the year.
- Chief Hamilton reported Master Box 162 has been placed on the Federated Church. A fully addressable system (covering all levels) was installed and the panel is located at the side door entrance. A building key will be placed in the box. The Board needs to draw up a pre incident plan. Chief Hamilton is working with the Baptist Church to have a master box installed there.
  - Board members reviewed the updated inventory for Forestry 1. There is 1000' of forestry hose on the reel and one 100' roll in the Station. Chief Hamilton told the Board about the different threads available for the hose: Mass. Forestry, National Standard, and Iron Pipe. There is no standard being used in area Towns. Sutton uses Mass. Forestry (most expensive). Grafton uses National Standard, and the State uses Iron Pipe. A lengthy discussion took place dealing with the purchase of hose, nozzles & adapters, and misc. equipment. Deputy Chief Rudge said he would prefer purchasing all new hose and adapters/nozzles as needed. The cost of 1600' of hose is \$2,320. Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion to purchase 1600' of forestry hose, one brush rake, one forestry shovel, and two Pulaski tools for Forestry 1. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Silver and carried on a 5-0 vote. There are six working Indian cans at Station 3.
  - Board members talked about adding "hose" and related equipment to the P.M. sheets. Asst. Chief Gasco said any missing equipment should be reported immediately after a fire and not two weeks later. Before leaving the scene, all equipment should be accounted for, and if anything is missing it should be reported immediately. No decision was made to change the P.M. sheets.
  - Chief Hamilton has scheduled the annual Open House for 10/11/17 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Papa Gino's will provide 50 pizzas at no charge along with promotional handouts.
  - The new generator at Station 2 has been installed. Asst. Chief Gasco needs to hook it up.
  - Kinsley Power will be in to check the generator that Grafton Fire donated. They will also provide an estimate for a generator for Station 3.
  - The Board reviewed an updated patch design. Changes will be made.
  - The Public Safety Building Siting Committee decided on a location for a new Police Station (at the sewer plant property-131 Providence Road) and a new Fire Station (at 130 Elm Street). YOU Inc. is not renewing the lease for the property.
  - Chief Hamilton and Bob Frederico inspected the schools on 8/12/17.
  - Board members discussed the captain's position at Station 3. FF. Steven Kosiba will be asked to meet with the Board on 9/11/17 to talk about his

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interest in the position.

- Chief Hamilton asked the Board for their thoughts about the Cross Street training proposal. Asst. Chief Silver made a motion to have Cross Street Associates present the training program on November 13, 20, and 27, 2017. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Gasco and carried on a 5-0 vote. The Fire Department is applying for a grant offered by NVFC that could cover the cost of the training.
- The Board reviewed a training schedule for August and September as prepared by Asst. Chief Gasco and Asst. Chief Silver. Deputy Chief Rudge made a motion to accept the schedule. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Gasco and carried on a 5-0 vote.
- Chief Hamilton presented an Apparatus Report based on P.M.s done in July:
  - Engine 1: at S.V.I. for repairs
  - Tower 1: all set
  - Rescue 1: all set
  - Engine 2: driver's side quartz light out, driver's side washer hose broken, trash line valve leaks
  - Engine 4: all set
  - Hose 1: driver's side rear spotlight out
  - Engine 3: passenger & driver's side puddle lights out, misc. compartment lights out
  - Forestry 1: all set
  - Engine 5: passenger side panel lights out
- 7/21/17-Greenwood Emergency replaced water tank gauge in Engine 3
- 7/31/17-SVI repaired tank fill pipe on Engine 3
- 8/7/17- SVI repaired Engine 1-tank fill pipe, water tank gauge, wiper switch
- 8/10/17-Town Mechanic replaced right stabilizer link in F2
- 8/10/17-Town Mechanic replaced left stabilizer link and serviced F1.
- Josh Piscitelli will be asked to replace the pump panel lights on Engine 5.
- F2 will go to Place Motors next week to have the 4-wheel drive repaired.
- Asst. Chief Silver reported the officer's side red light on Forestry 1 is out.
- New England Environmental was hired to remove the underground tanks at 28 Canal Street. Chief Hamilton will inspect the work as it is done.
- The underground tanks at the Warren Street and Elm Street pumping stations are due to come out. Chief Hamilton found paperwork documenting they are double walled tanks and should be exempt from the removal requirement.
- Deputy Chief Rudge invited Board members to Engine 2's annual party at his camp. It will be held on 8/19/17 at 2:00. HQ will cover for Station 2's district.
- Deputy Chief Rudge said the kids who painted Station 2 did a great job. He said the doors on the shed still need to be painted. Also, FF. Keith LaCrosse painted the station letters and they look good.
- Asst. Chief Gasco said the sway bar on F2 has been repaired. Also, the front end of Forestry 1 has been repaired.

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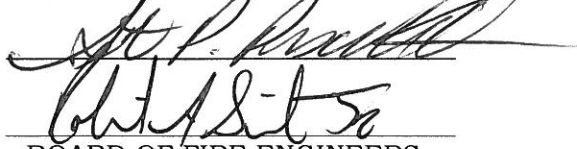
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- Asst. Chief Piscitelli said the gear rack has been installed at Station 5 and it looks good. He said more cleaning at the Station will be done.
- Asst. Chief Silver said the wall at Station 3 (left side) is crumbling. Asst. Chief Piscitelli will look at it.
- Asst. Chief Silver asked if the Board could purchase some brush pants or jump suits for F1. The Board asked him to get prices.
- Asst. Chief Silver said he spoke to Walter Swenson about the pump training. He said classes are going well but he will need help on Saturdays in September. Company captains will be asked to help him on those days.
- Asst. Chief Silver hasn't been able to contact Colton Paszkowski to see how he is doing in the recruit training class.
- Chief Hamilton said MPC serviced the boiler at Fire HQ and found that the hot water tank was rotted. They will provide an estimate to replace it. MPC will also provide a quote to convert the boiler at Station 3 to gas.
- Chief Hamilton has been painting dry hydrants throughout town. He asked if Board members knew of any others. Asst. Chief Piscitelli mentioned the one at Tiffany Circle, but thought it was not functional. Chief Hamilton will contact the Tiffany Circle Association to see if they are willing to remove the dry hydrant.
- Deputy Chief Rudge said one Saturday he found FF. Tom LaVallee waiting for a firefighter to do driver training. FF. LaVallee said this was not the first time the firefighter missed a scheduled appointment. Chief Hamilton will speak with the firefighter.
- Asst. Chief Piscitelli said he would like to see better attendance at this year's Firefighters Memorial Mass. He said the captains should start now to bring this up at their stations. A notice will go out to all reminding them about the Mass scheduled for 9/24/17.

Asst. Chief Piscitelli made a motion to adjourn at 20:45.

  
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