

MINUTES

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

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

Date: August 13, 2012

12 SEP 24 AM 9:57
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chief Rudge, Asst. Chief Day, Asst. Chief Hamilton, Asst. Chief Hobin, Asst. Chief Gasco

Absent: None

Minutes were not available. Invoices were signed. Mail was read. Account balances were reviewed.

6:45 P.M. GEORGE STIMPSON-FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

George Stimpson met with the Board to review the plans for the annual Firefighters Memorial Service. This year, the Millbury Baptist Church will host the event on September 30, 2012 at their 10:00 a.m. service. Mr. Stimpson said Pastor Barlow has arranged to have Rev. Aram Marashlian, Chaplin emeritus of Newburyport, speak at the service. Rev. Marashlian spent four days at the Worcester Cold Storage Fire. Mr. Stimpson asked for an estimate of those attending so enough refreshments are available. The Board thanked Mr. Stimpson for the information and will notify the firefighters about the service. Jeffrey Dore will act as the Fire Department's liaison and will provide requested equipment and a head count to Mr. Stimpson when available.

7:00 PM-INTERVIEWS-LIEUTENANT-AERIALSCOPE

Before the interviews, Board members agreed to fill the vacancy on Rescue 1 first because it has been vacant the longest and for seniority purposes. FF. Tom LaVallee applied for both positions; he will be interviewed once.

7:00 PM Thomas O'Connell

FF. O'Connell said he works on and responds with the truck. He has been dedicated to it since he was assigned to it. He would like to try to pull the station together.

Asst. Chief Day had no questions.

Asst. Chief Hamilton asked how O'Connell would pull the station together. O'Connell felt cross training would help. When asked about the new truck, O'Connell said everyone will need a lot of training on the new boom. He was willing to put in the time to be trained and train others.

Asst. Chief Hobin asked if O'Connell would have a problem driving the new truck- O'Connell replied no.

Asst. Chief Gasco asked if O'Connell had the time to put the new truck together and do training. O'Connell said he was willing to make the time.

Chief Rudge asked how O'Connell would move the station forward. O'Connell said he believes cross training is key and to get the new truck up and running. O'Connell would also like to eliminate some of the cliques that have formed-and that the station should be like a family.

7:15 PM Richard LaVallee

FF. LaVallee told the Board he is the senior man at the Station. Although his attendance has been low, he is no longer president of the Lion's Club and will have the time now. LaVallee also said that cross-training is needed.

Asst. Chief Day asked if LaVallee had any other commitments now. LaVallee replied no.

Asst. Chief Hamilton noted LaVallee's lack of attendance on Monday nights (due to his Lion's Club involvement) and that training is very important. LaVallee said he now has the time to dedicate to the new truck and the training that goes with it.

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Asst. Chief Hobin asked how LaVallee would bring the station together. He replied that all the cliques need to be stopped and that better communication is needed.

Asst. Chief Gasco asked LaVallee if he had the time to get back up to speed. LaVallee said he has the time now and is willing to improve his Monday night attendance.

Chief Rudge said the person has to be dedicated to getting the new truck up and going. LaVallee said he realizes this and is willing to give the time. In closing, he said he keeps a calm head and can speak to everyone.

7:30 PM Peter Balkus

FF. Balkus said he wants to bring the truck and crew to the next level, have better communications, and do more training. He is used to managing a large crew and knows how to direct people. He wants to eliminate the drama and move forward-we have a do to do-let's get it done.

Asst. Chief Day had no questions.

Asst. Chief Hamilton asked about his availability on Monday nights. Balkus said he had family commitments over the past year, but now has the time to be here on Monday nights.

Asst. Chief Hobin asked how long Balkus has been on the Scope. His replied 2005.

Asst. Chief Gasco stressed the time it is going to take to get the new truck set up. Balkus said he will be available on Monday nights and was willing to put in some weekends if needed.

Chief Rudge asked Balkus about taking a leadership role. Balkus said his managerial experience is vast. He doesn't expect any flax and will work side-by-side with his crew.

7:30 PM Tom LaVallee

FF. LaVallee told the Board he has 28-years of experience, can run all the trucks, has leadership skills, and is a "people-person". His attendance has almost tripled over the last year and expects this to continue. He was interviewed for both trucks.

Asst. Chief Day asked LaVallee about his shoulder injury. LaVallee said he is working light duty but did not ask for a leave of absence from the Fire Department.

Asst. Chief Hamilton asked about his availability on Monday nights and if he had caught up on Scope training. LaVallee said he has the time now and is up on training. *Asst. Chief Hamilton* asked if LaVallee could run a training session on Rescue 1. LaVallee said his stronger truck is the Scope but felt he could run a training session on the Rescue.

Asst. Chief Hobin asked what LaVallee felt was needed in the station. LaVallee replied he would like to see more cross training and that when the new truck comes in additional training days will be needed.

Asst. Chief Gasco stressed the time it is going to take to get the new truck set up and every one trained. LaVallee said he has the time and is 110% focused on getting the station up to speed. *Asst. Chief Gasco* also asked LaVallee that if he was appointed to the Rescue, do you feel you could make a decision in a life or death situation. LaVallee said he felt he could because he is familiar with the truck and the equipment.

Chief Rudge asked how LaVallee would lead the station. LaVallee said he is the second-senior man in the station and many of the guys already come to him with questions about truck operations and equipment. *Chief Rudge* also asked LaVallee why he felt he was right for the Rescue. LaVallee said he has been cross-trained on the truck and answers all the calls-not just large incidents or accidents. He felt he could do a good job.

7:30 PM-INTERVIEWS-LIEUTENANT-RESCUE 1

8:00 PM Timothy Cluett

FF. Cluett was asked why he was the most qualified candidate for Rescue 1. Cluett said he has worked with and been trained by every member of the Board. He has been assigned to

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the Rescue for 23-years and learned a great deal from the lieutenants-not just about responding, but about leadership. He works hand-in-hand with everyone and feels he has the confidence of the guys. He wants the opportunity to show the Board he can be a leader and move forward.

Asst. Chief Day had no questions.

Asst. Chief Hamilton asked if Cluett was willing to cross-train on the other trucks and how he would boost morale. Cluett said he would cross-train and felt after tonight's appointments were done, the station would start to come together again.

Asst. Chief Hobin had no questions.

Asst. Chief Gasco said that when Rescue 1 responds, it is usually a life or death situation. He asked Cluett if he could make the decisions in those situations. Cluett said yes, absolutely. He has worked hand-in-hand with Gasco in the past and is willing to take the responsibility of those decisions-but would also be willing to ask others for insight as well.

Chief Rudge asked where Cluett saw himself as a leader in the station. Cluett said he works together with the other lieutenants and the captain. He is looking to advance and wants to be a person others look up to. He said morale, training, and cross-training are important.

8:15 PM Robert Lahair

FF. Lahair told the Board he has been on the Rescue for six-years and worked a variety of scenes. He keeps a cool head, is willing to work with anyone and do the job safely. He has the leadership skills the job will require and works with haz-mat on a daily basis at his job.

Asst. Chief Day asked Lahair why he didn't apply for the Scope. Lahair said his heart is with the Rescue.

Asst. Chief Hamilton said Lahair put in a lot of time when the Rescue was outfitted and asked how Lahair would work with the other officers. Lahair said he is willing to work with everyone and that when we walk through the door, personal feelings have to be set aside-there is a job to do and we have to work together. When asked if he could work with the lieutenant if he wasn't appointed, Lahair responded "yes".

Asst. Chief Hobin had no questions.

Asst. Chief Gasco commented that Lahair knew the truck well but when it responds, it is usually a life or death situation. He asked if Lahair could make those decisions and run the crew. Lahair's response was yes, that he is not one to panic, would size up the scene and believes he can handle the decisions.

Chief Rudge said leadership qualities will be needed on the floor as well as the truck. Lahair said nothing gets done if you don't work together and that communication is important.

Before any nominations were made, *Asst. Chief Day* questioned why FF. Tom LaVallee was not on a leave. The Board decided to have the Fire Chief handle this.

Board members agreed to address the Rescue's appointment first. A lengthy discussion took place over the abilities of the three candidates, the opportunities they had to "step up and shine", their knowledge of the truck, their ability to stay calm under pressure, and their leadership skills. *Asst. Chief Gasco* made a motion to place all three candidates into nomination for the lieutenant's position on Rescue 1. This was seconded by *Asst. Chief Hamilton*. The Board voted as follows:

Asst. Chief Day voted for Cluett

Asst. Chief Hamilton voted for Lahair

Asst. Chief Hobin voted for Cluett

Asst. Chief Gasco voted for Lahair

Chief Rudge voted for Lahair

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The Board then addressed the lieutenant's position on the Scope. After some discussion, Asst. Chief Hamilton made a motion to place all candidates into nomination for the lieutenant's position on the Scope. This was seconded by Asst. Day. The Board voted as follows:

- Asst. Chief Day voted for Rick LaVallee
- Asst. Chief Hamilton voted for Rick LaVallee
- Asst. Chief Hobin voted for Rick LaVallee
- Asst. Chief Gasco voted for Rick LaVallee
- Chief Rudge voted for Rick LaVallee

All candidates and other members of Fire HQ were brought into the meeting and given the news. Board members congratulated Lieutenant Lahair and Lieutenant Rick LaVallee and offered their support.

CLARIFICATION OF APPROVAL OF CLERK'S PAY VOUCHER

Brian Turbitt notified Chief Rudge that the Board must clarify who is allowed to sign and approve the pay voucher for the clerk. Names must be provided in the letter to the Finance Director. Asst. Chief Day made a motion to send a list of names that can approve the clerk's pay and to use the chain-of-command if the chief is not available. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Hamilton and carried on a 5-0 vote. Asst. Chief Day would also like to have Mr. Turbitt meet with the Board to go over financial procedures and hiring forms. He is usually available on Monday's after 7:00 p.m.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

- Board members discussed the morale at Fire HQ-they did not realize it was such a problem. Asst. Chief Gasco said many of the members did not like having to vote for a candidate-this divides the group. He suggested changing the appointment criteria. Chief Rudge said he thought the companies wanted an input into the appointments. Asst. Chief Hamilton suggested giving them the option not to submit a recommendation from the station. No final decision was made.
- Chief Rudge submitted the following truck repair/p.m. report:
 - Engine 1: cracks under cab need to be welded. Rear tow bar needs repair. R.R. top amber light out. Gated Y at pump panel needs repair.
 - Scope 1: OK
 - Rescue 1: K-12 missing air cleaner (Husky 312oh), missing four spare bottles. Asst. Chief Hamilton said the recruits in the training class are using them.
 - Hose 1: Bottom of oil cooler housing leaking
 - Engine 2: No report
 - Engine 4: No report
 - Engine 3: Left rear strobe out. Noise when brakes applied-left front.
 - Forestry 1: When transmission upshifts into 3rd, the siren comes on.
 - Engine 5: No report
- Linda Gosselin, MECTA, informed the Board that the CPR/First Responder cards were sent in the same envelope as the invoice. The invoice has been paid, but the cards cannot be found.
- Board members reviewed a report and pictures on the progress of the new Tower. The truck is expected to be ready around 9/28/12. Board members discussed an inspection trip-which was included in the specs. Asst. Chief Day made a motion to send the fire chief and the two assistant chiefs from Headquarters on the trip. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Hobin and carried on a 5-0 vote. Connie Madigan will be notified.
- Chief Rudge read the following fire alarm report as submitted by Gordon Siebenhaar:

"Fire alarm panel has been inspected- circuit 3 circuit light was out, bulb replaced, circuit 2 light is out, bulb will not fix it. Checked spare cards both spares need to be sent to lw

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- Bills for repair. Box testing including 4 rounds, milliamp check at box and lube doors and pull handles and visual inspection for circuit 1, 4 and half of 3 is done. New wire has been run down Canal St. and to Asa Waters mansion. All circuits are operating normal." Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion to send out the cards for repairs. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Hobin and carried on a 5-0 vote.
- Chief Rudge reported that Matthew Belsito's mom passed away earlier in the day. Millbury and Sutton Fire will attend the services together. More information will be toned out when it is available.
 - The power to Fire HQ will be shut down on August 16, 2012 so the wires on the pole can finally be fixed.
 - Chief Rudge invited all Board members to Station 2's annual cook out. This will be held at Rudge's camp on Saturday (8/18/12) beginning at 1:00 pm. Chief Rudge also asked for HQ to cover Engine 2's district on that day.
 - Asst. Chief Day said the light at Station 5 will be installed on Thursday. He is trying to get quotes for the paving at the station.
 - Lt. Krumsiek has not picked up his new uniform yet and has not turned in the old one.
 - Capt. King requested the use of the hose truck to draft at Ramshorn.
 - Asst. Chief Day told the Board the violation notice issued to 33 Sutton Road was returned as unclaimed. Asst. Chief Day had a police officer hand deliver the notice and had the owner sign for it. They now have 20-days to pay the fine or request a hearing. A letter will be sent to the Hearing Officer explaining the situation.
 - Asst. Chief Hamilton will check on the status of the guide wire at Station 3.
 - Chief Rudge can get a truck to pump out the oil at Fire HQ and deliver it to Stations 2 or 3, but he needs a pick up tube. Asst. Chief Hamilton said he may be able to get one. The tank will be dismantled on a Saturday-after it has been emptied.
 - Asst. Chief Gasco will follow up on the identification cards.
 - Asst. Chief Hamilton ordered the chiefs white shirts for Field Day.
 - Asst. Chief Hobin is working on live burn guidelines and a training schedule for the remainder of the year.
 - HQ's generator will be converted after August 16, 2012.
 - Asst. Chief Gasco handed out information on confined space training. The Board will review this and set up a meeting with Wheelabrator. Asst. Chief Gasco said in the past, confined space training was voluntary, he felt everyone should go through some basic training. Asst. Chief Hobin will include confined space training in his schedule.
 - Asst. Chief Day ordered the pump for Engine 5 and two kits.
 - Asst. Chief Hamilton told the Board that Papa Gino's will provide pizza for this year's Open House. The event will be held on 10/10/12 at Fire HQ from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - Asst. Chief Hamilton made a motion to purchase a new imager for Rescue 1 at a cost of \$4800. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Day and carried on a 5-0 vote. The Ladies Auxiliary made a donation last month for the purchase of this item.
 - Asst. Chief Hamilton made a motion to purchase four new folding pump cans at \$153 each. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Gasco and carried on a 5-0 vote. Hamilton will order the cans.
 - Asst. Chief Hamilton made a motion to finish putting names on the remaining bunker coats. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Gasco and carried on a 5-0 vote. Asst. Chief Hamilton estimated the cost at \$850.
 - Asst. Chief Hobin requested an energy audit for Station 3.
 - Asst. Chief Hobin said the lines on the driveway at Station 3 need to be painted. Asst. Chief Hamilton will check on this.

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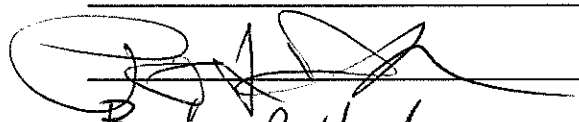
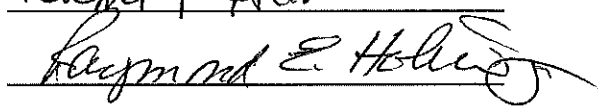
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- Asst. Chief Hobin asked if the garage door parts being stored at Station 3 could be moved. Ray Peare will be asked to inspect the parts to see if they are usable.
- Asst. Chief Hobin asked if the hose washer/dryer could be scrapped since it is not used and taking up space. Asst. Chief Hamilton made a motion to scrap the hose washer/dryer if no other department can use it. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Gasco and carried on a 5-0 vote.
- Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion to purchase a dozen gloves. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Day and carried on a 5-0 vote.
- Asst. Chief Hamilton reported the haligan is missing from the Scope bucket. Asst Chief Gasco said there is a spare on Rescue 1.
- Chief Rudge asked about the missing air bottles on Rescue 1. Asst. Chief Hamilton explained that the recruits in the Mass. Firefighting Academy class are using them. Capt. Newlands will be asked to check for any spare bottles in the station.
- This year's Field Day is scheduled for August 25, 2012.
- Asst. Chief Gasco will get estimates for repairing the scraped area on Rescue 1. This was a result of the truck hitting the archway of the overhead door.
- The Board will go back to its regular meeting schedule in September. Meetings will be posted for September 10 & 17.
- Asst. Chief Hobin asked about sirens for the chief's vehicle. Does the Town pay for them and the installation. Discussion took place. Although no motion was made, the Board agreed to purchase a siren for Asst. Chiefs Hobin and Gasco.
- Asst. Chief Day brought up the subject of driver training. He was concerned that one of the new firefighters was put through the competency course as a favor for Asst. Chief Gasco. Asst. Chief Day said he thought the course would not be set up for just one guy. Asst. Chief Gasco said he was tired of seeing the member sitting on the bumper of the truck waiting for a driver. Discussion took place. It was agreed that it was time to get back to driver training. Asst. Chief Hamilton will check to see what the newer members need to complete the training.

Asst. Chief Day made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.


Richard P. Hawk

Raymond E. Hobin

Regina A. Markey, Head Clerk