Fire Service Coordination Meeting

January 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 hrs by Chief Field

In attendance were Comm. Potter, Chief Newkirk, Phil Kozlak, Comm. Battle, Comm. Bennedetto, DC Brunoli, Dennis Andrews, DC Harmon, Chief Maccalous, Chief Field, FF. Pepler

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous meeting by Chief Maccalous and 2nd By DC Harmon

There was no discussion on the apparatus plan

There was some discussion on some policy, in particular some discussion on what we send for mutual aid from downtown. It was explained we will be sending Engine 2 so that the mutual aid department will receive either a pump or the ladder for their operation by sending Engine 2.

DC Brunoli handed out a city-wide Fire Police policy for each department to take back and discuss with their personnel. They should send any questions and comments to the Chief.

Chief Field stated he sent out a city-wide Violence in the Workplace Policy from HR.

Chief Maccalous and Phil Kozlak asked if personnel are required to go through a class on the policy. It was explained that through the TO that policy is covered. Chef Field said he would check with HR to see if there has to be any further training.

Black helmet policy. There was no discussion other than a report of department numbers of black helmets – DVFD-11, BVFD-9, and TVFD 9. This was asked by Comm. Potter

The report on training followed and Chief Newkirk asked Chief Field about the yellow helmet firefighter class. Chief Field stated it is the program used at the school. Chief Marques asked if one of his members who is physically disabled could just drive and not have to go through the whole class. It was suggested that he attend the whole class.

Chief Field stated that we received the new Class A Burn Trailer and the department was completing some training by the company. The Training Officer will be putting together a use procedure and getting a program together.

Chief Marques asked if there was a place they could go to use their new vent saw. The Chief stated there is a prop with the trailer and the school has a place for practice. Chief Newkirk offered up some old decking they have from their old shed for use.

The equipment account balance is approximately $21,000

Chief Field stated that we are 2years into the Strategic Plan and we should start to think about getting together sometime next year to start looking at and review the plan. The plan may need some updating.

There were no correspondences received.

Comments from the public;

Brian Cornell asked if the budgets should be prepared as they were or does the BOS want something different. Comm. Potter stated that they could do the same as the previous year.

Chief Field asked if they could be ready by around Feb 15th. If they get submitted to the Comptroller’s Office they will distribute them. Chief Field asked if they could send him a copy. They stated the budget calendar is out.

Issues from members were as follows:

Chief Maccalous had nothing except that the Commander remembers to turn the tanker around as soon as possible. He stated that things are going well with the tanker.

DC Harmon stated he emailed the mutual aid response agreement to the other departments. Chief Field asked if he could send one to him also.

Chief Marques asked about the FEMA forms requested. It was stated that we need the rosters so they can reference who was on what apparatus to see if reimbursement will be approved. If we receive the reimbursement Chief Field will investigate how it will get distributed.

Chief Marques asked where the old hydrant flags went that the water company removed when they installed the new ones. It was stated that we would check into it. Chief Field spoke about the history and how the flags got placed on the hydrants.

Chief Marques stated that DC Preato has retired/resigned after 30 yrs. Until they have elections this summer they will have a temporary DC to fill out the term. The choice has not been made at this time.

Dennis Andrews had nothing.

DC Brunoli told everyone to review the response matrix on whether they respond hot or cold and the officer should use some judgment on how the call is dispatch for the determination if there is any question.

There was some discussion on the considerable amount of radio traffic during the Pythian Avenue fire. Everyone needs to understand that there are times when saying nothing would be most appropriate. Commissioners Bennedetto and Potter were concerned over the amount and what can be done to make the corrections. Chief Field has asked the DC to work on a solution as soon as possible. The DC has already started working on a solution that will hopefully turn into a long term remedy to our communication issues.

 Comm. Bennedetto asked about the Tanker response. DC Brunoli explained that on fire responses they get dispatched so that we can have 3000 gallons on scene which will help in our ISO rating. It was easier than trying to figure out what streets are not covered by hydrants and for an improvement to the overall system in case we ned the water. More often than not the tanker is returned shortly after signing on or held in quarters. We will review the response policy in July.

Comm. Battle had nothing

FF Pepler- Local 1567- asked if we are ready to start the random drug testing. Chief Field stated that if there were no objections we would get started. Chief Maccalous asked if during the entry physical for new members that a drug test was getting done due to the fact it is on their application. Chief Marques stated that it should be done for new members.

Phil Kozlak had nothing

Chief Newkirk had copies of the reports FEMA wanted and included reports for days after the storm. Chief Field stated that it would only encompass the days of the storm but we what submit them for review.

Chief Newkirk asked what else besides the Fire Police on the response matrix changed. DC Brunoli stated that the Fire Police was the only thing.

Chief Newkirk asked if there had been any problems with his personnel at the Pythian Avenue fire. He stated some of his people were questioned regarding their assignments. DC Brunoli stated that he heard nothing so it could not have been an issue on his side.

Comm. Potter asked that we do review the tanker response policy.

He also stated that he listened to the fire on the scanner and was amazed there was not more confusion at the scene. He was concerned over the fire police signing on whether they were really needed at that incident.

Comm. Potter would like to see the District respond more, especially to the volunteer districts.

Chief Field is in the process of putting the budget together. If you need equipment let the DC know. We will do our best. We made two conditional job offers and are anticipating more retirements through June of this year.

Chief Field is also working on the annual report. 2011 was our busiest year to date with 2801 calls for service. Each district did more calls, and the Chief thanked everyone for their help during the year.

Chief Maccalous is looking for a building generator.

At the County Chiefs there was a presentation on grant money available for recruitment and retention for the Volunteers. There is a group working on ideas for a submission as stated by Chief Field and Chief Maccalous.

Comm. Bennedetto wants more local guys filling out applications for employment with the City department. Chief Field stated that there is no better breeding ground for us. Comm. Potter stated that they need to score better.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:30 hrs. Motion was made by Chief Marques and 2nd by Comm. Bennedetto