

Board of Fire Commissioners
April 3, 2018
Company #1 Firehouse
Regular Meeting

Commissioners present: Howard Bogue, Jennifer Spencer & Bruce Dutch
Visitors: Emmett Lyman, Eric Kolasinski, Laurie D'Aquila, Mike Davis, Brian Auld @ 6:15pm

1. Call to Order 6:01pm
2. Acceptance of Minutes
 - a. Motion by Bruce Dutch, seconded by Jennifer Spencer, to accept the minutes from March 6, 2018. Motion so passed with one abstain by Howie Bogue.
3. Bill Approval: Bills for month of March 2018 last submission date Apr 2 reviewed and approved as submitted.
 - a. Jennifer Spencer noted all hand delivered invoices now with printed name have been received – Thank you to FD
4. Budget Recap: Expenditures reviewed as of Apr 3, 2018 –
 - a. Request by Howie Bogue to have Jennifer Spencer review that line items categorized appropriately.
 - b. Note propane expense is at 961% - Bruce Dutch indicates now heating new bays at Company 2 with propane as well as new stove has pilot light on at all times.
 - c. Question from floor- should propane be listed under heating budget?
5. Old Business:
 - a. New fire boat has gone out to bid Howie Bogue to review when received by Linda Z.
 - b. New white boards have been purchased and will be set up to better track when all apparatus need DOT- Annual check and hose checks as well as repairs as they are needed.
6. Visitors Participation:
 - a. Discussion centered around recent meeting with Emmett Lyman- Jennifer Spencer, Career staff and Fire Chief Brian Auld- Amb Chief Ray Swol and Amb BOD rep. Laurie D'Aquila. Chief Auld did note he attempted regular communication with volunteer and career staff since he became chief but met resistance and will continue to work to improve communications.
 - b. Discussion noted communication remains a priority and all are pleased with the recent onset of meetings and plan to continue them on a regular basis. Next meeting is Apr 10 at 8am at Municipal building.
 - c. Goal is care for community by addressing best hours for Career staff at this time proposed one work 6 am to 2:30pm and second person to work 7A to 3:30pm as it has shown there is a need to overlap these hours. As some career staff do have other work obligations some flexibility may be needed to meet needs of staff and Town residents.
 - d. A concern regarding FT-PT staff being fired was discussed as this is not the plan and is rumor. We do need to replace a FT career staff member as one has recently left the position open currently being covered with PT staff. Plan is to offer to internal personnel first then outsiders as needs indicate. Please note importance of assuring experience in

field is important with new hires. Emmett did address concern that with all the experience we do have with our career staff could they do some training with the volunteers. Concern of distance some of the staff have for doing training and will they be paid for this time was discussed.

- e. A priority issue needing to be reviewed by Fire Commissioners, First Selectman and chiefs are budget for 2 FTE including benefits vs having all PT employees (10) as suggested tonight. Considering reorganizing for best coverage for town.
 - f. There remains a need to address Chain of Command for career staff. Emmett Lyman to complete his review of all correspondence related to career staff as over the years some changes were made and we need to determine which are official changes and determine which option is effective. It does read from paperwork 2010 that they shall work under the control of Board of Fire Commissioners or their designee or the first Selectman.
 - g. FC Howie Bogue notes we all need to get along and he will initiate regular daily stops to speak with paid staff and determine any needs and or complaints needing to be addressed.
7. Fire Chief's Report:
 - a. None
 8. Fire Marshal's Report:
 - a. None
 9. Building Report:
 - a. None
 10. Equipment Report:
 - a. There are issues with tower lights on rescue – First line to make road call and determine issue / all chargers on trucks were working with last check per Howie Bogue. In need of purchasing new batteries for apparatus / engine 1 with gear issues. Howie noted any truck issue to be reported to him and he will determine action to be taken. He confirmed again that as needed one career staff member can take apparatus for repairs and can call on Bob Bennett or Jennifer Spencer for return ride.
 11. Correspondence:
 - a. Frontier communications sent update on Hazmat located at their facility. Will be given to Chief Auld for follow up.
 12. New Business:
 - a. Fisherman's breakfast to be held Apr 14th at Co1 -- 4am to 10am Cost is \$7 with kids free.
 13. Adjournment: at 7:12pm
 - a. Motion by Bruce Dutch, seconded by Jennifer Spencer, to adjourn. Motion so passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Spencer, Secretary