

Board of Fire Commissioners
December 17, 2019
Company #1 Firehouse
Special Meeting

Commissioners present: Jennifer Spencer, Bruce Dutch, Howie Bogue
Visitors: Chief Auld, John Sarnik, First Selectman Rob Smith, Cindy Varricchio, Ron Turner, Eric Kolasinski

1. Call to Order 7:03pm

2. Old Business:

- a. Security Camera Discussion: Discussion took place regarding security. What is the goal of the cameras? Goals include, but not limited by, seeing who is accessing the facility, determining responsible party especially since we have had damage to doors at the firehouses but no one is stepping up to indicate they caused the accident. Needing to monitor for theft and tampering with firefighter gear.

The benefits of utilizing the same system as the town was discussed and that from SHS. Town system will cost approximately \$32,000 to take care of two firehouses. The SHS system is quoted at \$3,999.00. H. Bogue to have meeting with Ron Turner and SHS representative hopefully this week. They will also try to have IT Manager Mark Knittel attend as well to answer questions regarding wifi and internet concerns and other questions.

Placement of monitors inside the office was discussed. It was determined they can close the current window with block or fire rated wallboard and then use that area for the monitors. All agreed this is a good option.

Once the meeting has been held to discuss areas of concern then we can move forward with SHS as provider if approved by First Selectman Smith and R. Turner. If any major issues develop they will be brought to the attention of the Fire Commissioners and First Selectman Smith.

3. Equipment Report

- a. Hurst Tool Discussion: It was noted after recent preventative maintenance on the equipment that there are no replacement parts for any of the hydraulics. It was noted one piece of equipment was bought in 1975. The Commissioners were made aware that this has been an issue for 3 years. Reason for Commissioners not knowing of this is of concern as they should have had these items on the capital budget for at least 3 years. This type of issue cannot happen again. Discussion is about best way to replace the equipment to be cost effective and maintain safety of our town's residents. Quotes have been obtained from one provider and research will be done with two other providers to get best option. It is felt the status of the tools are a big liability for the Town at this point and to have equipment that could fail at any time is risky. C. Varricchio to discuss with CIRMA as to the need to replace all equipment now versus getting needed pieces now

and add to the capital budget for next year. Fire Department indicates with the need to improve our equipment to meet the changes to new vehicles (currently we have 5,000 PSI but we need 10,000 PSI) we can replace three items now which will greatly improve our safety when extricating someone from a vehicle. The best choice is one Cutter package with two xl batteries & charger for \$12,850.00, one Spreader package with two exl batteries & charger with cost of \$13,650.00 and one Ram package with exl batteries and charger for \$9,160.00 for a total of \$35,615.00. The Commissioners will return to discussion after results of concerns with CIRMA. As the Fire Department is planning to submit a grant for a Ladder Truck (Quint) which will be going out as soon as FEMA opens the grant, the Commissioners are asking for the package to include the same package as noted above therefore decreasing costs as will be part of the grant.

- b. Ladder Truck Discussion: The ladder truck has had recent issues and was taken for annual PM/DOT inspection and assessment of the problem with early estimate of repairs so far total minimum of \$10,000. As the cost was so high and a grant is pending the Fire Commissioners and Fire Department determined it was best to take the ladder truck out of service. As well, while returning to the firehouse the ladder truck did not make it back but had to be towed to Company 2.

Motion by H. Bogue, second by J. Spencer, to keep ladder truck out of service with no further expense to be placed on truck, continue with the grant process and if grant is not obtained the Commissioners will come back for further discussion. Motion passed.

4. New Business

- a. Halligan Inventory Tool Discussion: The system was described by E. Kolasinski and J. Sarnik. Many positive aspects for this application was noted. First Selectman Smith and C. Varricchio asked if the same application would be useful for other units such as Public Works, Police Department and Emergency Management. This will need to be researched. Costs were discussed (\$250/station/year) and were reasonable related to expense of the equipment we own. It will be labor intensive to set up with bar codes and inventory of every item but will be easy to maintain, can alert staff to items due for servicing, and can track each item. Many positives for this application which is cloud based and adds extra security. The issue that developed with the hydraulic equipment would not occur again with this system. Per C. Varricchio it would be possible the cost of this system could come out of the technology budget. First Selectman Smith and C. Varricchio, as well as those present, agreed that the Fire Department could pilot this program and see if it would also be useful for Public Works, Police Department, Emergency Management and Facilities. E. Kolasinski to discuss any maintenance fees if any.

Motion by J. Spencer, seconded by H. Bogue, to establish a pilot program as soon as a final quote is determined. Once this is done and clarification completed by C. Varricchio the application and required barcodes can be ordered. Motion passed.

- 5. Adjournment: Motion by H. Bogue, seconded by B. Dutch, to adjourn meeting at 8:30pm. Motion so passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Spencer, Secretary