

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2020
Woodbridge Fire Department -**ZOOM ONLY**

Present: *Chairwoman Karen Baldwin-Kravetz, Vice Chairman Michael Horton, Commissioner Bruce Mandell, Chief Sean Rowland, Assistant Chief Chris Bahner, Fire Marshal Joe Cappucci, Joseph Crisco (Board of Selectman Liaison to the Fire Commission,*

Absent: *Secretary Mike Soufrine, Nate Case (Executive Board Liaison)*

Call to Order

With a quorum (3 Commissioners present), Chairwoman *Karen Baldwin-Kravetz* convened the meeting at 6:03pm

Public Comments

None

Liaison Comments

Joe Crisco thanked all the FD for their continued hard work

Chairman's Report

None

COVID-19 Update

Chief Rowland gave a summary.

Chief continued that there were a couple of new COVID-19 cases (5). There is a spike increase in CT (as Fall approaches and Flu season, which was expected. We are monitoring the increase daily and keeping a running tally. We have been using our Aeroclave machine to disinfect the Bay area, Day Room and Offices to keep the building safe during this pandemic. Chairwoman Karen Baldwin-Kravetz asked if the FD has given any thought to her suggestion at the last meeting regarding temperature screening protocol with the FD. The chief responded that he has not been doing temperature checks. He reiterated that every FF is aware that if they are feeling sick, they are to self-isolate for 2 weeks. Even if we take their temperature that day, he/she could have a temperature an hour later and we wouldn't know it. He continued that with training, the FF's have not been on top of each and keep social distance. If we do have another drill, we will definitely have the screening. Discussion followed.

Review Current Financial Statements

Year-to-Date FC Operating Budget and Capital Budget

Chief Rowland pulled up the reports on the screen. It is still early in the new fiscal year. Nothing blaring out. We will keep an eye on the Cleaning Line #53100 as it may go over. Due to COVID-19, we have the Cleaning Crew come on twice per week (once a week pre-COVID), and we funded a part time Janitor for 19 hours /week. Chairwoman Karen Baldwin-Kravetz asked what the schedule was prior to COVID-19. Chief Rowland responded that the Cleaning Crew was coming in 1x per -\$220 per. They would have special additional assignments as well such as was washing the Bay windows and doors which is added cost. Once COVID-19 hit, we hired a part time janitor and increased building cleaning to twice per week (\$440). Therefore, we have full cleaning coverage, 5 times per week. Discussion followed.

Chief continued. Everything is ok so far, but we have already had a busy few months with the storm a few weeks back and a windstorm 2 weeks ago, which added an additional 30 calls. We are picking up and bracing for a busy end of year.

Fire Chief's Report – Fire Chief Rowland

Chief continued. As he stated, the windstorm was quick, but was 30 calls for multiple wire, trees down and roadblock. Our contact with the Town's UI liaison was notified, to assist with de-energize, wires down. Odd thing was that Bethany and Orange had virtually no calls, only Woodbridge was hit.

Yesterday, the FD responded to a garage fire at a residential home on Seymour Rd. The garage is attached to the house. The guys did a phenomenal job in containing the Fire to the garage. The structure is standing, but uninhabitable due to the smoke. The foam in Engine 2 worked great, used 10,000 gallons of water. We had Bethany assist with Tankers and Orange FD covered Woodbridge. Commissioner Bruce Mandell asked the cause of the fire, Chief responded that the FM will go over the fire when he does his report .It was a busy day as we had 4 other calls, an MVA on Downs Rd as well.

Engine 3- Hope to have the Engine next week. There were some warranty issues. Once delivery is made, it will be modified to have in house

Engine 9 – In the process of designing the specs for Engine 9 replacement. Would like to go out to bid in late Fall, early Winter. Chief will present BOS and BOF.

Ladder and Hosing Testing – On site in the next 2 days to inspect ladders and 11,000 ft of hose

Truck or Treat – Scheduled for 10/31 from 5pm to 8pm. Little different this year. Trucks will be lined up at Meetinghouse Lane (decorated) and residents will drive through, pre-package candy will be given to cars via “grabbers”. There will be no food or fireworks this year. We will also be handing out fire prevention materials (coloring books, hats, to get the word out). We anticipate a good event. We want to do something for the kids. No one will get out of their vehicles and FF will be in full masks and social distance. We will also have a and FM transmitter – cars can tune to a radio station and music will be played. Commissioner Baldwin-Kravetz commented it was a great idea. She is concerned at all CDS guidelines will be followed. In our marketing material, she asked that cars only have people that live in their households (not others). Also, all volunteers practice social distancing protocols. Chief replied that there will be sign up sheets for cars, and all guidelines will be met. The BOFC also agreed to help support the FD by sponsoring a truck. Discussion followed.

Chief Rowland spoke with Beth Heller and a new BOFC commissioner will be appointed in November. Chief Rowland looked into “in person” BOFC meetings if everyone was comfortable doing so – 6ft apart. Chairwoman Karen Baldwin-Kravetz remarked with the uptick in cases, she would rather not be indoors at the FD and continue via ZOOM meetings. Vice Chairman Michael Horton agreed.

Chief Rowland noted he submitted more information to the Consultant per his request regarding Dispatch last week. We are waiting for the recommendations the consultant will provide to the Town. Discussion followed.

WFD Activity report- Assistant Chief Bahner

Asst. Chief reiterated the number of calls during the windstorm (30), roughly 190 from Storm Isiah. There has been an increase with activated alarms, CO (with people turning on their furnace). Chairwoman Karen

Baldwin-Kravetz asked if the BOFC could get analysis report of the number of calls/man hours last year at this time vs. this year. Chief Rowland agreed and hoped to get at next meeting.

Fire Marshal's Report – Fire Marshal Joseph Cappucci

FM Cappucci discussed his report: He had 83 appointments last month:

72 inspections, 2 consultations, 4 plan reviews, 2 fire investigations (Salem and Katz)

The Fire on Seymour Rd is under investigation – not suspicious and the cause is undetermined pending investigation. The FM called the State Police and arson dog. The building Inspector was to go out today. The couple was home when it started, and no one was hurt.

Executive session

N/A

Actions heard on Executive Session

N/A

Correspondence

None

Approval of minutes 201-2020

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting. Chairwoman Karen Baldwin-Kravetz asked that it be the 1st item on the November agenda

Next Meeting Date

November 16, 2020

ROLL CALL APPROVAL OF DATE:

HORTON: YES

MANDELL: YES

BALDWIN-KRAVETZ: YES

Adjournment

MOTION (BALDWIN-KRAVETZ) to adjourn. **MOTION SECOND** (MANDELL). With unanimous ROLL CALL APPROVAL, the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina O'Connor Clerk
Board of Fire Commissioners

Michael Soufrine
Secretary