



FIRE COMMISSION

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Rm D
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School St., Bethel, CT 06801
Hybrid meeting via Google Meet

Present: Chair Fred Ingram, Tony Rubino, Rich Straiton, Doug Cuny, Todd Smith, Chief McCollam and Chief Baker

Also Present: Assistant Chief Evanska

Chair, Fred Ingram called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Consideration of approval of regular meeting minutes from March 13, 2024:

Motion made by Tony Rubino, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to approve the minutes as written from March 13, 2024. Vote, Fred Ingram, Tony Rubino, Rich Straiton in favor; Doug Cuny and Todd Smith abstained. Motion carried.

Chiefs' Reports:

Chief McCollam's report for BFD:

- MES went over ladder truck, waiting for official report back
- First live burn this coming weekend
- Update on education of members
- Getting ready for Memorial Day parade

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to accept Chief McCollam's report. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Baker's report for SHFD:

- Hose testing was completed
- All trucks have gone through inspection
- Over in Supply & Repair 5202 Acct line item, no worries from Finance
- Continuing to look for ladder truck

Motion made by Tony Rubino, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept the Chief Baker's report. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

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Chairman's update:

- Financial information will get discussed at the next regular meeting
- FOI Policy reminder
- Negative comments regarding apparatuses on social media needs to stop
- Budget for ladder truck has passed, ladder truck has been found and is available for delivery in November 2025 or sooner, plan for a special meeting on May 1st at 7pm to discuss with the sales representative from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to accept the Chairman's update as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Consideration of final draft for 10-year capital tire replacement plan:

Chair, Fred Ingram presented the plan to the Commission and recommended it get forwarded to BOS and BOF. Motion made by Tony Rubino, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept the plan and forward to both BOS and BOF. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Consideration of SHFD command vehicle proposal:

Chair, Fred Ingram presented to the Commission that a pick-up truck (2023 Ford F-150 Police Responder Supercrew Pick-Up Truck) has been found. The Selectmen have approved the truck and a deposit has been made. The total price came in at \$62,624.61. Delivery is believed to be able to happen for July. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Tony Rubino, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept the proposal as written and forward to the BOS for their final approval for a chief's vehicle for SHFD. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Recommendation to First Selectman's email regarding elected vs appointed Fire Commission:

Chair, Fred Ingram opened the floor for the Commission to say their input about the topic. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Tony Rubino, and seconded by Todd Smith, to keep the Fire Commission the way it is with the number of members, except for the member of the BOS should just be on the BOS instead of both, and replace that person with a general person from the public that is approved by the BOS. Tony Rubino amended the motion to state, keep the Fire Commission the way it is with 2 veteran firefighters from both departments, 2 fire personnel persons outside the Town of Bethel, and 1 person from the community to replace the Selectmen member. Tony Rubino withdrew his motion.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Todd Smith, to recommend to the BOS that we maintain a 5-person Commission with 1 senior/veteran member representing each Fire Department, 2 members with outside of the Town of Bethel Fire Department experience, and 1 at large member all serving with staggering terms for 4 years. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Rich Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Tony Rubino, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kasey Galbis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kasey Galbis
Recording Secretary