



FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Rm A
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School St., Bethel, CT 06801
Hybrid meeting via Google Meet

Present: Chair Fred Ingram, Doug Cuny, and Todd Smith

Also Present: Chief Baker

Absent: Rich Straiton

Chair, Fred Ingram called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Chief's Reports:

SHFD:

- Attended the Bridgewater Fair last weekend
- Had 15 calls to service during the August 18-19 rain storm
- Structure fire at intersection of Wolfpits/Dodgingtown
- 3 new EMT's that passed the exam
- Fire 1 class on-going
- Transfer from Emergency Reporting to another software called First Due
- Took radios out of the Chief truck to bring to new truck in Middletown
- Engine 1 was out of service due to some water damage from the weather

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept Chief Baker's report as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Revisit and revise SCBA bottle inventory to implement into 10-year plan:

With SHFD being completed in this section the Commission needs more information from BFD as their inventory is showing to be obsolete.

Motion made by Doug Cuny, seconded by Fred Ingram, to move the review of the BFD SCBA bottle inventory to next month's meeting. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

RECEIVED
2024 AUG 23 A 8:06
TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

Review year end financials for both departments:

SHFD still has outstanding bills for vehicle maintenance. Once those bills are paid, they are still under the total budget. Discussion ensued.

Fred Ingram went over the concerns of the BFD financials that included certain line items and going over budget.

Motion made by Doug Cuny, seconded by Fred Ingram, to move the review of year end financials for both departments to next month's meeting. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Review roadway/highway incident safety practices:

Doug Cuny explained how there have been more apparatus accidents on scenes and brought up having the departments think of options for an apparatus to be a blocker at scenes to keep a front-line piece of equipment and people out of harm's way. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept the review of roadway/highway incident safety practices. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman's update on meeting with the First Selectman:

Fred Ingram went over the topics that he discussed with the First Selectman which included:

- Was not pleased about the response at the Wolfpits fire
- Interested in recruitment and retention
- In favor of tax abatement and perpetuity tax abatement for members with 25 years or more of service
- In favor of reinstating the LOSAP program
- Wanting the same standards for each department
 - o Discussion ensued
- Paid fire Chief/Administrator
- Future of EMS
 - o Should we separate them from the fire department or keep them
 - o Consolidation for both departments
 - o Discussion ensued
- Consolidate the equipment from each fire department
- Abundance of first responder vehicles at BFD (4 SUVs and a utility truck)
- Engine 3
 - o Discussion ensued
- How loosely the budget is prepared
 - o Specifying line items within the budget
- Need to have requisitions for items that are not specifically spelled out as a line item
 - o Has to be brought to the Fire Commission as a requisition before those purchases are made
- Grounds maintenance at the fire departments
- Town was looking into a training facility
 - o Not pleased with the storage container at BFD

- Chief Baker recommended looking into working with the City of Danbury to use their facility at an annual cost
- Health and safety issues at BFD
- Dispatch issues with the PD getting to scene first

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded by Doug Cuny, to recommend to the BOS that the Fire Marshall and Health Director do a health and safety inspection of both fire departments.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded as amended by Doug Cuny, to amend the original motion to recommend to the BOS that the Fire Marshall and Health Director do annual health and safety inspection of both fire departments. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded by Doug Cuny, to have the two fire departments form a joint commission including Tom Galliford, Gail Clark and anyone else they think should be on said committee to recommend recruitment and retention ideas to the Fire Commission for consideration to recommend to the BOS for consideration. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded by Doug Cuny, to table the rest of topics that were discuss with the First Selectman for further discussion. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded by Doug Cuny, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kasey Galbis
Recording Secretary