FIRE COMMISSION

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

RECEIVED
2024 NOV 14 P 4:01
TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, November 13, 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, Rich Straiton, Chief Baker, and Chief McCollam

Absent: Todd Smith

Chair, Fred Ingram called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to add to the agenda under New Business, consideration of the purchase of two new portable radios for the Stony Hill Fire Department for Truck 4 in the amount of $16,867.92. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment:
Past chief Tony Rubino from SHFD commented on the disposition of Engine 3 and how he believes that it is a vital piece of equipment that should stay in service since the Stony Hill District is only getting bigger. He asked the Commission to speak to both chiefs about their thoughts and needs for that apparatus.

Consideration of approval of regular meeting minutes from October 9, 2024:
Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 9, 2024. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman's Report:
Fred Ingram met with the First Selectman and discussed:

- Chief's reports
- Budget Expenditures
- Budget preparation for upcoming fiscal year
- Engine 3
- Fill vacancy on the Commission

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept the chairman's report. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner's comments:
Rich Straiton wanted to thank Stony Hill Fire Department for the nice 75th year anniversary celebration at the Amber Room Colonnade.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept the commissioner's comments. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Chief's Reports:
SHFD:
- 23 calls
- Brush fire concerns with the dry weather
- 75th anniversary celebration at Amber Room Colonnade
- Equipment being installed into new truck
- Training scheduled for new truck
- Fire 1 class in session
- EMT testing in session

BVFD:
- Testing coming up for Fire 1
- Small brush fire on Long Meadow Lane
- Working on SOP's
- Would like Engine 3 to stay in service
- Replacing ladder truck

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept the chief's reports. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished business:
- **Consideration of recruitment and retention ideas:**

Captain Matt Troy of BVFD presented a general proposal of ideas for recruitment and retention to the Commission. The proposal focused on incentives for all types of members at both fire departments. One of the main incentives he focused on was credits towards expenses in town (i.e. field house annual pass, dog licensing fee waived, transfer station fees waived to a certain extent, train station parking pass for commuters, parks & rec member credit). Another idea was to create a space to wave first responder flags. The last idea that was discussed was a revision to the tax abatement program. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to table the consideration of recruitment and retention ideas to next month. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of future budget expenditures:**

Fred Ingram discussed how it is difficult for the Commission to see what exactly is being purchased based off of just the line item and dollar amount. There is a generic budget format form that Tom Galliford used that is being worked on by Comptroller Brad Heering for each department to use.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to table the consideration of future budget expenditures until next month. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

New business:

- **Consideration of review of October financials:**

Fred Ingram pointed out that a charge for Belardinelli Tires is coming out of the vehicle maintenance account for BVFD and Chief McCollam stated that he will follow up with the Comptroller to adjust the money to come out of capital. Discussion ensued. Fred Ingram also pointed out an amount from Rankin Sporting for shirts for the instructors that came out of the dues and education account instead of the equipment and supplies account. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to accept the review of October financials. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of chief's reports and expected content:**

Fred Ingram discussed how he would like to have the chiefs put together a monthly call total report, apparatus response report, and a number of personnel response report to forward to the Commission each month. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to accept the report on expected content from the chief's reports. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of Engine 3 future disposition:**

Fred Ingram explained that this isn't the chair or the Commission trying to get rid of Engine 3, it was a discussion that he had with the First Selectman about what to do with the apparatus. Should it be in service, replaced, refurbished, or disposed of? Fred Ingram asked the chief's and commission members what they would like to do with the truck. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to recommend to the BOS that Engine 3 remains as a front-line piece of apparatus for the Stony Hill Fire Department and that it will be either replaced or refurbished in the near future as the Commission decides. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of F/Y 25-26 budget preparations:**

Fred Ingram informed the chiefs to start getting rough numbers and use the template from Comptroller Brad Heering for both departments. He also mentioned that the chiefs should start getting two or three bids from different vendors for turnout gear, pump testing, and DOT inspections. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to recommend for both departments to get multiple bids on the larger budget items for the upcoming fiscal year. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of the purchase of two new portable radios for the Stony Hill Fire Department for Truck 4 in the amount of $16,867.92:**

There was discussion about where the money for paying for the radios and their chargers with collar mics would come from in the budget. There is only a need for 2 radios because they were able to reuse 4 other radios from the expedition and the utility truck to save money. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to recommend that the Stony Hill Fire Department purchase two portable radios and chargers with collar mics for Truck 4 and be funded through the CNR account in the amount of $16,867.92. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded by Rich Straiton, to adjourn at 8:43pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kasey Galbis

Kasey Galbis
Recording Secretary