



FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, December 11, 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, and Todd Smith

Chair, Fred Ingram called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

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

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 13, 2024. Vote, all in favor. Todd Smith abstained. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Chairman's Report:

- Attended BOS meeting on 12/4
 - o Both recommendations for the portable radios and Engine 3 have been accepted
 - o The recommendation for the portable radios got forwarded to BOF meeting on 12/10 which also got approved
- Spoke with Comptroller Brad Heering regarding the budgets
 - o Wanting the budgets in by end of first week of January

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

Commissioner's comments: none

Chief's Reports:

SHFD:

- 41 calls
- 14 illegal burns (no brush fires in Stony Hill District)
- Brush fire on Linda Lane
 - o Sent the information to DEEP for reimbursement

TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

2024 DEC 12 A 10: 03

RECEIVED

- Repairs done to the firehouse
- Great showing for food drive at Big Y
- Getting ready for the Santa run
- Pierce is coming to do training for the new truck

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

BVFD: presented by Assistant Chief McCallister

- Just about 500 calls for this year
- Brush fire on Linda Lane
- Last minute fire truck rides at Winterfest
- SCBA bottle update
- 275 trees sold, sold out in 5 days

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to accept Assistant Chief McCallister's reports. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Unfinished business:

- **Consideration of recommended lane blocking SOP:**

BVFD is a work in progress to get an SOP together. SHFD put together a policy that was shared with the Commission. Fred Ingram is wanting a joint SOP between both departments. Todd Smith informed the Commission and Chief's about a piece of equipment that is being used in other locations that has been known to benefit when it comes to lane blocking. An informational video was shown to all the members at the meeting. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to table the consideration of recommended lane block SOP to next month. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of incentive proposals:**

Based off the presentation at last months meeting by Captain Matt Troy, Chief Baker doesn't think the incentives he focused on will be enough after looking at the personnel they have at the departments. There was more focus on wanting incentives to make people start and stay with the departments like starting at pay per call system and making beneficial changes to the tax abatement program. Fred Ingram is wanting both departments to have a joint agreement for fine tuning the tax abatement program. Discussion ensued.

Rich Straiton recommended to Fred Ingram that the Commission might be able to put a place holder in with the BOS and BOF in regards to developing an incentive and is wanting to set aside a certain dollar amount for the budget. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to table the consideration of incentive proposals to a to be determined special meeting. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of future budget expenditure approvals:**

The Commission is not wanting to see recurring items and is not wanting to slow any payments down, but for purchases that are over a certain amount should come before the Commission for approval. The budget lay out doesn't give enough information for the Commission to be able to know what is being paid for. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, that going forward, any expenses out of the general budget that aren't specific lines items over \$1,500 need to come before the Fire Commission for approval before expended. Discussion ensued. Motion withdrawn by Fred Ingram.

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Todd Smith, that the Chief's bring with them invoices for everything over \$1,500 on a monthly basis. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

New business:

- **Review of November financials:**

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to table the review of November financials to next regular meeting. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of Stony Hill ex-officio appointment and current Commission vacancy appointment recommendation:**

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to recommend to the BOS that Doug Cuny's commission be renewed. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Doug Evanuska will be the new Chief of SHFD starting in January. Currently, John Baker is the ex-officio member of the Fire Commission for SHFD. Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to recommend that Doug Evanuska be appointed to the ex-officio position of the Commission to represent the SHFD. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of department budget proposals:**

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to table the budget proposals for Fiscal Year 25/26 to a special meeting on a date to be determined. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of special meeting dates to finalize department budget proposals:**

There was discussion about what dates work for everyone to have a special meeting. Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Todd Smith, to schedule a special meeting to review the fire department budget proposals for December 18, 2024 at 7:00PM. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- **Consideration of approval of 2025 meeting dates:**

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to recommend to set the 2025 meeting schedule as outlined. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, seconded by Doug Cuny, to adjourn at 8:23pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kasey Garbis

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Recording Secretary



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The Fire Commission meets once a month on
the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. in Meeting Room A at the
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center

2025 MEETING SCHEDULE:

January 8, 2025

February 12, 2025

March 12, 2025

April 9, 2025

May 14, 2025

June 11, 2025

July 9, 2025

August 13, 2025

September 10, 2025

October 8, 2025

November 12, 2025

December 10, 2025

January 14, 2026