



FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Rm A
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School St., Bethel, CT 06801
Hybrid meeting via Google Meet

TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

2025 FEB 13 P 1:55

RECEIVED

Present: Chair Doug Cuny, Fred Ingram, Rich Straiton, Todd Smith, Pete Holmberg, Chief Evanuska, and Chief McAllister (came at 8:02pm)

Also in attendance: SHFD Lieutenant Bob Germinaro

Chair, Doug Cuny called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Consideration of approval of regular meeting minutes from January 8, 2025:

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to amend the minutes on the bottom of page 3 to reflect the incorrect math for the bottom-line budget request for the BVFD to be in the amount of \$256,132 instead of \$255,682. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Rich Straiton, to approve the minutes as amended. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Reports:

- Chairman's Report:
 - o Budget meeting 2/12
 - Tight budget season
 - Need to sort out number fire fighters, number of fire fighter with interior gear, and number of fire fighters with two sets of gear for the 10-year plan for expiration

The Commission discussed how the two departments have two different types of gear and would like to see both departments have the same gear. BVFD has black gear which is a 10% increase for pricing. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Pete Holmberg, that the two Chief's and/or their representatives come back to the Commission next month with a universal town-wide turnout gear spec and give a report (year expiring, interior members, etc.) on the status of all the gear (helmets, boots, gloves, hoods, etc.). Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- Fred suggested that moving forward, the Commission should start looking at budgets no later than November. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, that the two departments present to the Commission a rough budget proposal on a universal, homogenized budget template at the November meeting. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- Todd brought up three Wells Fargo charges on the same day on the BVFD monthly expenditure list under the Firehouse Maintenance account. Discussion ensued. There was no explanation as the BVFD Chief was not present during this time of the meeting.
- Pete brought up breaking down each vehicle under the Vehicle Maintenance account. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Pete Holmberg, and seconded by Doug Cuny, that the Vehicle Maintenance accounts get divided into sub-categories of each vehicle. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

- There was discussion about the information in the 2025-26 capital budget report for both fire departments. The Commission will look at the capital budget plan to re-work the information.
- Fred brought up going back to applying for grants for the fire departments. Discussion ensued.

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

- Chief's Reports:

- SHFD:
 - 22 calls in the last month (1 structure fire in town, multiple mutual aid calls to Brookfield)

Fred Ingram reminded the Chief's as previously discussed about what the Commission and First Selectman are looking for during the Chief's reports. With the new software now being used, there will be a learning curve to being able to formulate that detailed of a report. Discussion ensued.

- BVFD:
 - Working on the turnout gear list

Doug Cuny informed Chief McAllister about the previous motion that was made during the Chairman's report about the turnout gear. Discussion ensued.

- Rich Straiton brought up the previous question about the Wells Fargo charges on the monthly expenditure for BVFD. Chief McAllister said that it was in relation to the copiers at the firehouse.
- Fred Ingram brought up that in the 2025-26 capital plan there is \$125,000 to replace the Chief's vehicle, which is being run by the Assistant Chief at this time. It was recommended that the vehicles be switched to the correct member. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, that the Chevy Tahoe be assigned to BVFD Chief as his duty car, and the other ancillary vehicles be assigned on a rotating basis to a duty officer. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, that the assigned duty officer shall be responsible to responding to all alarms while in possession of the duty vehicle. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Rich Straiton brought up the previous discussion about the line items in the 2025-26 capital budget for the SCBA bottles and the mobile radios and see if those can get moved around and clarified. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Doug Cuny, to have a special meeting on February 26, 2025 at 7:00pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

- Review of previous month's expenditures
Discussed above during Chairman's Report.

- Department budget proposals (moved to BoF)
Discussed above during Chairman's Report.

- Incentive programs – tax abatement and pay per call (moved to BoS/BoF)
The pay per call was discussed by the BoF and was moved from the operating budget for future consideration. The BoS had questions about the Commission's plans for changing the tax abatement program. The BoS is looking for more details to be able to make a decision. Fred Ingram brought up that the Chief's need to come up with mutually agreeable requirement. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Doug Cuny, and seconded by Todd Smith, to add the discussion of the qualifications of the tax abatement to the agenda for the special meeting on February 26, 2025 at 7:00pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Budget discussion with Board of Finance
Discussed above during Chairman's Report and Unfinished/Ongoing Business.

Public Comment: none.

Motion made by Doug Cuny, seconded by Rich Straiton, to adjourn at 9:01pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kasey Galbis
Recording Secretary