

FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 14, 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, and Tony Rubino were present in-person. Doug Cuny attended via Google Meet. Also in attendance were Chief McCollam, Chief Baker, and Assistant Chief, Doug Evanuska

Absent: Rich Straiton

Chair, Fred Ingram called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Public Comment: None

Consideration of approval of special meeting minutes from January 24, 2024:

Motion made by Tony Rubino, and seconded by Fred Ingram, to approve the minutes as written from January 24, 2024. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Chiefs' Reports:

Chief McCollam's report for BFD:

- BFD's annual dinner was just held
- Received new sets of chains
- Discussion on tires will come up later in the meeting
- Two new firefighters waiting on testing
- New Paratech equipment is in service

Chief Baker's report for SHFD:

- Camera project is moving along slowly
- Message boards are in the process of being designed
- Four firefighters waiting to take the test, some of whom are minors

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- SHFD is running within their budget, year to date

Motion made by Tony Rubino, and seconded by Fred Ingram, to accept the Chiefs' reports. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration to forward a 10-year capital tire replacement plan to the Finance Department for both fire departments:

Discussion ensued regarding how to cost out the tires and if secondary fire vehicles have to have the tires replaced every seven years as is the case with emergency vehicles. Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Tony Rubino to table this discussion until the next regular meeting, in order to get additional information. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of commission recommendation to execute Sutphen factory service contract on Bethel's ladder:

Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Tony Rubino, to accept Chief McCollam's report on the Sutphen factory service contract on Bethel's ladder. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Discussion on anticipated build time and cost for SHFD ladder and possible leads on any available demos:

Assistant Chief, Doug Evanuska, presented leads on two trucks:

1. A used 2018 truck for about a million dollars
2. A demo truck, which is very close to the truck specs that SHFD had, being built in April, 2024, and will be ready by August, 2024, for about 1.7 million

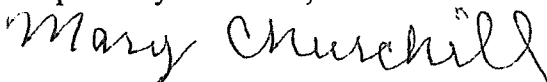
Motion made by Fred Ingram, and seconded by Tony Rubino, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen, following a consultation with First Selectman Carter, to secure funding, as soon as possible for the purchase of a demo ladder truck as presented to the Fire Commission. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of BOS recommendation to form a 7-person truck committee/s independent of the fire departments:

Chief McCollam stated that each fire department has a 5-person truck committee and a member from the BOF is more than welcome to attend meetings. Discussion ensued. The Fire Commission is comfortable with the truck committees from each department reporting to the Fire Commission.

Fred Ingram made a motion, which was seconded by Doug Cuny, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Churchill
Recording Secretary