

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Wilson called the special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on January 14, 2021, to order at 6:04 p.m. Commissioners Wilson, Shanley-Buck, Kanute, Moise, and Lajoie were present. Chief Paul was also in attendance.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was held for all first responders lost along the way and Chief Paul asked to also recognize the passing of Nancy Voisine, the wife of FF Dean Voisine, who was a wonderful person and did a lot for the department and Company 1.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Kanute, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2020, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Kanute, to approve payment of bills for December 2020 in the amount of \$49,328.16. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report: None

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Paul reported:

COVID-19

- All personnel were sent information to receive the vaccine and through conversation it seems that many have received the first inoculation and have set their appointment for the second
- Members are to continue wearing masks and using hand sanitizer

Commissioner Moise asked if the vaccine was mandated which Chief Paul reported that it is not. Commissioner Moise asked if it was known of the number of members who have gotten the vaccine. Chief Paul reported that there was a large response.

Chairperson Wilson asked if there was any information from Town Manager Sciota or Health Director Lockwood on when in person activities could resume after the vaccine is administered. Chief Paul reported that the issue has not been addressed yet and that the decision would come from Health Director Lockwood.

Alarms

- There was a kitchen fire on Butternut Lane on December 3, 2020, that the responding personnel did an outstanding job

- There was a motor vehicle accident with an extended extrication on I-84 that included a Life Star landing that the responding personnel did an excellent job

Apparatus

- R3 has been sold to a department from Madison, North Carolina, who picked it up early in the day thanks to Captain Keith Glabau
- Shipman's repaired cracks in the body of Squad 1 that was covered by the warranty
- The virtual final inspection for the new rescue engine is scheduled for January 26, 2021, and delivery to Shipman's is expected shortly after; Apparatus Committee members will attend
- Company 2 continues to work out issues with Tanker 2

Administration

- BC Heath continues to work on the sprinkler project for Station 5 that he successfully wrote and was awarded a grant for
- BC Donnelly is working on having the generator at Station 5 moved to the exterior of the building as part of the sprinkler project
- BC Dube and BC Donnelly are working with Police Department on dispatch protocols
- BC Donnelly and Maureen Frazier are researching software in preparation of the retirement of the department's current system
- Company 2 has been added to Company 3's district calls as was suggested in a meeting Chief Paul held with company representatives to address the shortage of responders in that district
- Chief Paul thanked the Board of Education for their help repairing the recent plumbing issues
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions the annual awards ceremony was not held and the service awards are being distributed
- Chief Paul congratulated BC Dube for successfully completing the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program
- FF Kevin Salmeri has successfully completed the Connecticut Fire Academy's Recruit program and has been assigned to B Shift
- The department instituted its storm watch policy during the snow storm on December 17-18

Master Plan

- The online surveys for residents and businesses are being finalized and is expected to go live in a few weeks
- Chief Paul has a conference call scheduled with an ESCI representative tomorrow at 11 a.m.
- A site visit will be conducted by a couple of members of ESCI during the week of March 15, 2021

- Remote sessions will be conducted by ESCI with the Board of Fire Commissioners, Town Manager Sciota, Town Council members and the Board of Finance

Training

- On-duty training will continue through March
- Captain Lee will train the three Company 3 drivers on the 2012 Sutphen that will be relocated to Company 3 when the new rescue engine is in service
- The new probationary class started on January 4, 2021, with six members in the class

Building Maintenance

- Roof repairs are being done at Headquarters, Company 2, and Company 5
- Chief Paul is looking for a vendor to repair the tile in the reception area of Headquarters

Commissioner Lajoie asked if the department has access to the names of the members who had received the vaccine and Chief Paul told of it being a HIPPA violation to disclose that information but he would confirm that with Health Director Lockwood next week. Chief Paul also told of the current directives in place that require all members must adhere to wearing the proper personal protective gear when responding to calls along with wearing masks and washing hands while in the station.

Activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of December 2020:

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 59
2. CRRS - 1
3. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 173
4. Damage to property involved in fire - \$122,500
5. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$35,600
6. Other losses - \$0
7. Total - \$158,100

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Commissioner Moise discussed that the committee plans to meet virtually on January 27, 2021, at 7 p.m. Discussion was held on finding a new representative from Company 3 and the Town Council for the committee.

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Moise told of him being near the accident site for the I-84 MVA and the great job the members did. Moise also thanked Chief Paul on the great job he has done with the budget and discussed the improvement in the volunteer response numbers compared to last year.

Commissioner Moise asked about the number of gear washers in the department and Chief Paul reported that there are two. There is a gear washer at Headquarters and one at Company 3.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

BC Dube discussed the I-84 extraction and what a long and difficult call it was. BC Dube talked about other recent incidents his shift responded to such as the ice rescue on Tuesday, and what a great job everyone who responded did. He also thanked the Board for their congratulations for completing the Executive Fire Officer program.

Vice Chairperson Shanley-Buck asked Chief Paul on the status of a department boat trailer. Chief Paul discussed that the department has a snow mobile trailer for the boat and at this time it is working out fine and does not limit the capabilities of the department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to approve the proposed budget request for 2021-2022 fiscal year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on various accounts and the information regarding the SAFER grant for three new firefighter/EMT positions to staff Station 3 Monday through Friday during the daytime. Chief Paul was thanked for all the work he put in to get support from the Town Council. Commissioner Kanute was also thanked for his help in getting support for the grant.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Lajoie, to approve pursuing a FEMA SAFER grant for three new firefighter/EMT positions to staff Station 3 Monday through Friday during the daytime. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Kanute, to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

David Kanute, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners