Regular Meeting of the
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners

DRAFT -- Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2021

Thompsonville Fire Station, 35 N. Main Street, Enfield, CT

1. Call to Order: by Comm. Bouthiette at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll Call: present were Comm. Bouthiette, Comm. Gillespie, Comm. Dodd, and Comm. Pliszka. Absent was Comm. Perry. Also, present were Chief Deskis and Department Secretary Steneri.

3. Chief's Report:

Chief Deskis said the Scott 5.5 Air packs were delivered to the station. The staff is in the process of training with them. After the training is complete, the air packs will be put in service. We will try to sell the old air packs.

Chief Deskis said the station is in the process of being painted.

Chief Deskis said the dirt pile is slowly being removed. It is going to take a while because the contractor comes sporadically.

Chief Deskis said the new Chevy Tahoe has finally arrived. The next step is to install the lights and radios. This may take a while because some items are back-ordered.

Chief Deskis said the Fourth of July Celebration Committee has asked about a waiver or variance for the fireworks this year. I am not sure if it is approved by the Board or not. Comm. Dodd said it is done every year. Chief Deskis said I don't know if the Board needs to sign something. Comm. Dodd said the Board will make a motion to approve and then you can tell the celebration committee the Board approved it.

Chief Deskis said Fire Marshal Ellis asked me to provide some information regarding a company called Brycer, LLC to the Board. The company can send sprinkler inspection notices to our residents. The service does not cost anything. I'm not sure if the Board has to vote on it because there is a contract.

Chief Deskis said the apparatus research committee has provided some information about their findings. The committee is here to talk about some of that information. The committee is still doing research.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Comm. Dodd said as of April 30, 2021 the balances are: Operating account: $31,700, Apparatus and Building Maintenance fund: $160,386, and the Municipal Investment account: $1,891,774. Those are our free-flowing cash accounts.

Comm. Dodd said the expenses for the month of April were $192,954. So far our total expenses for the year are $2,973,687. Our budget is $3,659,616. That means we are $685,928 under budget right now. We still have the months of May and June. We are on target with our budget.

Comm. Gillespie asked did we get a bill from the Town yet. Dept. Secy. Steneri asked do you mean for IT. Comm. Gillespie said yes. Dept. Secy. Steneri said we have not received a bill for IT or the communications center. We usually do not receive the IT bill until June. Comm. Dodd said the budget for IT maintenance is $26,580.

Comm. Pliszka asked Chief Deskis if he purchased the new software we needed. Chief Deskis asked what software. Comm. Pliszka said the software for FireHouse. Chief Deskis said we made a partial payment of $8,000. I have asked for an invoice for the remaining balance so we can pay it this year. Comm. Pliszka said we have $27,000 remaining in the account. Comm. Dodd said if there is anything that we can pay off in May, then we should do it. So, then we will have a clearer picture of how June is going to net out.

5. Public Communications:

None.

6. Commissioners' Communications:

MOTION ***to approve the Fourth of July request for a waiver or variance for the fireworks that are scheduled for this July*** made by Comm. Dodd, seconded by Comm. Gillespie. Discussion: Comm. Gillespie said I just received a text from Scott Kaupin about this. He said the TFD needs to request a variance from the regulation that the building will be unoccupied during the setup and display. It was obtained by the District in 2019. Fire Marshal Censki and Deputy Fire Marshal Ellis took care of it all. It had to be in place for the State to issue the permit. Comm. Dodd said that is what we are doing right now. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

Comm. Dodd said I think using Brycer is good idea. Scott is only one person trying to get a lot of stuff done. Comm. Bouthiette agreed. Comm. Dodd asked what is the cost? Chief Deskis said nothing.

MOTION ***to approve the agreement to use Brycer, LLC to send notices out to our residents for inspections*** made by Comm. Dodd, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

7. Old Business:

Comm. Pliszka said we should get a letter from the Town of Enfield saying both parties are satisfied once the dirt pile is completely removed. We should have something in writing. The rest of the Board members agreed.

8. New Business:

Apparatus Research Committee:

Captain Flanagan gave a brief history of Squad 21. He discussed the options of buying a new vehicle and refurbishing Squad 21 with the commissioners.

MOTION ***to spend up to $2,000 to join the consortium*** made by Comm. Gillespie, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

Brycer LLC Plan for Fire Marshal's Office:

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Retirement Plan Trustee Change:

Chief Deskis said there was a change in trustees for the pension plan. Firefighter Duval is going to be the trustee for the Union. Comm. Dodd asked who the previous trustee was. Dept. Secy. Steneri said Captain D. Pliszka. Comm. Pliszka said he was supposed to be added but he never was. Did the Union have a vote on this? Captain Flanagan said there was a vote at the last meeting.

Comm. Bouthiette said does the Board need to discuss the Beirne Wealth report since we are taking about the retirement plan. Comm. Dodd said they are not on the agenda. Dept. Secy. Steneri said they give quarterly updates. Beirne Wealth sends out a report every month.

American Legion Post 154 Monthly Meetings:

Chief Deskis said the American Legion Post 154 is losing their meeting space on Pearl Street. Comm. Bouthiette said I heard that the building was sold. Chief Deskis said their commander asked me if I knew of any meeting places. I suggested having their meetings here at the station. Their meetings would be the last Wednesday of every month so it would not interfere with the Commissioners' meetings. They asked if they could bring a gun safe with them. I said told him that I don't have a problem with it. They would need a key card to get into the station though. Comm. Dodd asked how many people would be at the meetings. Chief Deskis said they don't have that many. Comm. Dodd said I am wondering about the key card. There should be somebody here or someone could come and let them in. Comm. Pliszka said we should give them a key in case we are not here and they have an event where they needs their guns. Chief Deskis said only a couple of people would have key cards. Comm. Pliszka said the Federal Government owns the rifles so the American Legion has to tell them where they are going to be.

MOTION ***to approve that the American Legion Post 154 can hold their monthly meetings and store their service weapons at our facility*** made by Comm. Dodd, seconded by Comm. Gillespie. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

9. Approval of Minutes from April 21 regular meeting, May 5 annual meeting, and May 5 special meeting:

MOTION ***to approve the minutes from the April 21 regular meeting, May 5 annual meeting, and May 5 special meeting*** made by Comm. Dodd, seconded by Comm. Gillespie. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

10. Adjourn:

MOTION ***to adjourn*** made by Comm. Dodd, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. All in favor by ayes at 7:44 pm.