

BLUE HILLS FIRE DISTRICT
MEETING OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The monthly meeting of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and a moment of silence was observed.

PRESENT: Present at the meeting was Chairman Tanya Farmer, Commissioner Jerry Hughes, Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Treasurer Errol Bartley, Fire Marshall Bill Lewis, Captain Fred Nelson, Firefighter Vincent Jaunai, Martin Stone, Sam Wilson, Jerry Bilbo, Jannett Manson, Natori Jones, Barbara Bagnall, Johnnie M. Grice, Rhonda _____, Beverly J. Callis, Shirley Camby, Donna Banks, Jacqueline Massey Greene, Gregory Mitchell, Essie Tate and Anne Wall

READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Chairwoman Tanya Farmer read the minutes from last month's meeting. A motion was made to correct the minutes as follows: The Judge was named Joan Gamble not Carol. The correct word after Fire Marshall's Report is none not noned. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Farmer stated that there were 29 calls in the month of July. There were 19.6 manpower hours. Chief Farmer stated that there was 1 fatal car accident near 790 Blue Hills Avenue. Hartford Police department pursued the vehicle, which later crashed. There is an ongoing investigation regarding this incident. The Town Radio infrastructure is still being upgraded. The Town wants a consultation on what needs to be done with the infrastructure systems.

On July 15, 2016 The East Granby Fire Chief was killed in an MVA. Chief Farmer was selected as the Task Force Leader to assist the East Granby Fire District with operations. During the week of July 17-23 2016, He assisted with the Funeral and Wake arrangements. Chief Farmer provided coverage from area departments within the states, because their district was distraught and did not need to attend any emergency situations. Suffield and Bloomfield Fire District split the time on calls during that week.

Chief Farmer met with Frontier phone coverage regarding quotes on savings for all 3 fire departments. Comcast coverage will be cancelled. The 3 year contract with Comcast ends October 11, 2016. The Board of Commissioners needs to approve the switch from Comcast to Frontier to move forward. Also the Board of Commissioners needs to approve the McMahons contract for the exterior yard at Station 3 to be up kept.

Chief Farmer stated that there were 45 calls in the month of August. There were 22.8 manpower hours.

There were 2 minor fire incidents. A trash receptacle fire at 7 Marguerite Avenue and a machine fire at Dudley Town Road at Jacob's Manufacturing. There was an increase in calls for the month of August because the Bloomfield Center Fire District needed a joint response to all calls for 7 days due to the construction on the train tracks. One of their engines was brought to Station 4 for easier access for the firefighters to get too. The District has a manpower volunteer shortage. Chief Farmer will write a letter to the University of Hartford, trying to recruit students with firefighting experience.

A motion was made to enter into the Lawn Care Contract with McMahon. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made to switch from Comcast Business to Frontier Phone Coverage. The motion was seconded and carried.

Please refer to the incident run log for further details.

FIRE MARSHALL'S REPORT: Please refer to Fire Marshall Lewis' monthly paper report for details.

TRAINING REPORT: Chief Farmer stated there will be A Pump Operator Apparatus Class in October 2016.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Bartley stated the District's finances are in a good position.

HOUSE CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Captain Nelson stated he has been working on the sign out front of headquarters. The Town of Bloomfield will remove the roots of the two bushes out in front of the sign, before lights are added.

SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT: Chief Farmer stated the Safety Committee will be reviewing the safety policies for Driving apparatus and wearing SCBA.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT: Firefighter Jaunai stated the Internship 6 week program that started July 5, 2016 was successful. Graduation was held on August 15, 2016 at Headquarters. The interns received an invitation to attend the Town Council meeting on September 12, 2016. The District was invited to the back to school fair August 20th at the Leisure Services. Firefighter Jaunai thanked all the members who attended. Firefighter Jaunai stated that a list of supplies was given to Chief Farmer to order for fire Safety week.

DEPARTMENT CONCERNS/GOODS AND WELFARE: Chief Farmer will meet with Chief Freeman of Hartford Fire Department regarding mutual aid with fires. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca Jaunai stated the District's website that has been worked on for the past year is ready to go live very soon. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca Jaunai thanked Captain Fred Nelson and firefighter Terry Wright for their help getting information together for the site. Commissioner Jaunai stated that confidential mail addressed to her was opened. She stated that anything addressed to her should not be opened by anyone else. Chairman Farmer stated that mail addressed to anyone at the Fire District should not be opened by anyone other than the addressee especially if it is marked confidential. The District will address the issue.

CITIZEN'S STATEMENT AND COMMENTS: Donna Banks wanted to know is there an application process for volunteer recruitment. Chief Farmer explained the process to her. Jacqueline Massey-Greene

handed out a letter addressed to the Board members and Chief Farmer. The letter was read aloud by Donna Banks to the Board of Commissioners' and Chief Farmer. Anne Wall asked the status of Bylaws for the Commission. Chairman Farmer stated they have not been written. Ms. Wall asked again about planting flowers at the house across the street. She was again informed that the District does not own the house and that planting flowers would be a backroom decision. Jannette Manson wanted to know why the taxpayers are paying for the firefighter bonuses, if it is legal for the paid firefighters to get bonuses and who determines who gets what? Commissioner Jaunai stated that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the District decides. Jannette Manson asked if it is legal for the Treasurer to remain in office because he doesn't live in the Fire District. Treasurer Bartley stated that the term for the treasurer's position ends June 30th 2017. Anyone is more than welcome to apply for the position and will be trained by the treasurer. Treasurer Bartley gave additional information on his background of being the District Treasurer for 14 years. He moved out of Bloomfield 3 years ago. Nothing in the Bylaws states, once you move out of the District you could no longer be the Treasurer of the Blue Hills Fire District. Barbara Bagnall asked how many attorneys the District has. Chairman Farmer explained to her that the District has two, Carl Landolina of Fahey & Landolina and Attorney Patrick McHale of Kainen, Escalera and McHale. Chairman Farmer explained to the assembly that Personnel records are private. No one is automatically entitled to an employee's personnel records. The FOIA allows an employee to sign a form stating that they think giving out their information is a breach of confidentiality and the FOIA Commission decides if the information is public or not. Jerry Bilbo, retired safety officer of the Department, stated the public is here at the meeting for all the wrong reasons.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Commissioner entered into Executive Session at 9.05 p.m. The session ended at 9:09 p.m.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES AND VOUCHERS: A motion was made to pay all invoices and vouchers. The motion was seconded and carried.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting 9:12 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5, 2016