

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 6, 2014
7:30pm Mortlake Fire Department**

1. Call the meeting to order - First Selectman, Rick Ives, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Attendance: Peter J. Considine, Stephen C. Breen, Patrick Gauthier, James Soler, Jeff Otto, Jim Warren, Felix Ramos and Rick Ives.

2. Review of meeting minutes - None.

3. Public comment – None.

4. Election of chairman –

Patrick Gauthier made a motion to nominate Peter Considine as Chairman. Motion second by James Solar. With no opposition the motion passes unanimously.

Rick Ives handed the meeting over to Peter Considine, Chairman.

5. Election of vice chairman- incumbent James Soler

Jeff Otto moved to nominate James Solar as Vice-Chairman. Stephen Breen seconds the motion. With no opposition the motion passes unanimously.

6. First selectman report of Fire Marshal duties - Rick Ives reported that the Fire Marshal stated he does not have enough hours in the week to do his job effectively. The Fire Marshal is currently trying to get caught up on technology with a laptop that will help fill out his reports, which should make his work more efficient. Jeff Otto feels that there should be an administrative reporting mechanism put into place to make sure that all the required work of the Fire Marshal is getting done efficiently. He would be in favor of increasing the number hours of the Fire Marshal spends on his job, which is currently 19 hours a week. Further discussion was heard regarding this issue. Mr. Ives will report back to the Commission with the Fire Marshal's status of work completed weekly. He would like to have an emphasis on the

apartment inspections in town as he feels there may be some exposure to the Town. There are currently 297 apartments in Brooklyn.

7. Town Funding Grant Requests from fire departments - Jeff Otto has suggested that the Commissioners attend the next Finance meeting in order to discuss their budgets.

He further stated that any capital requests the Fire Departments have will need to be done as soon as possible. Mr. Otto also stated that if there are any requests, he would like to present them to the Capital Finance Committee in order to get answers to questions the Committee may have. He felt this could be done before the Fire Commissioners review as well. These requests need to be in by the end of February, beginning of March at the latest.

Patrick Gauthier stated that his department needs to replace their defibrillators as they are expiring soon. Further discussion was heard regarding this matter. This is a capital request. Discussion was heard regarding pooling the departments together and buying these as a bulk/group purchase.

8. Public comments (again) - Peter Considine commented on the recent criticism that became viral and disrupted the fire departments. He feels there needs to be some type of restriction regarding these issues and social media. He feels this could have an effect on the way the public sees the departments as professionals. The Commission discussed various ways to handle the situation.

First Selectman, Rick Ives, stated that he is reviewing the current administrative policy at the Town Hall and would like to implement a policy regarding this issue as it pertains to Town employees and volunteers.

The Commission agreed to wait 60 days after which time Mr. Ives will present the policy that he would like to put into place. At that time the Commission can look at the proposed policy to decide how they would like to proceed.

9. Adjourn – Motion by Patrick Gauthier with a second by Stephen Breen to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is at the East Brooklyn Fire Department on March 11, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Desrosier, Clerk