

Board of Fire Commission Minutes
Special Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2014
19:30 hrs. Mortlake Fire Department

1. Call to Order – Peter Considine called the meeting to order at 19:28.

Roll Call of Board Members – Peter Considine, Patrick Gauthier, Stephen Breen, Rick Ives, Jim Warren, William Skene, and Jeffrey Otto (arrived at 19:31).

2. Review of the minutes from April 8, 2014 – The review of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting because the regular recording secretary was absent.

3. Public Comments – None

4. Discussion:

- **Reports for the Board of Finance:** Jeffery Otto reminded the Fire Departments that the Board of Finance would like to have quarterly reports. The Board of Finance wants the reports so that they can see the fire departments' spending habits and how the money is being spent. Discussion ensued.

Jeffery Otto said that he would like the reports two weeks after the end of the quarter, so that they would have them for the next Board of Finance meeting on October 15, 2014. The reports can be given to Rick Ives so that he can bring them to the meeting. The report format is the same that is used for the budget reports.

- **Volunteer Accident Policy:** The policy covers firefighters if they get hurt on a call. Both fire departments have purchased the policy, but it is now offered within the Town's new insurance policy, according to Rick Ives. The current policy costs \$5,500, but using the policy that is within the Town's insurance would be free with only a few slight changes. Rick Ives will provide the comparisons between the two different policies at the next meeting, but would like the Fire Departments to consider doing away with the policy that they pay. They will decide after seeing the comparisons.
- **Consultant:** Patrick Gauthier feels that the Town is not receptive to getting another new fire truck this year. The fire chiefs and former fire chiefs have done a good job with the truck schedule, but Patrick Gauthier suggests that the Commission should maybe consider pushing the truck schedule back one year and to see if the Town will allocate money to have a private fund study done to make sure that the correct vehicles are where they should be for their optimal usage.

Rick Ives stated that this is the opening the Commission needs to get, but he is not sure how he feels about a consultant coming in to do a study. He wants to make sure that the Commission finds a consultant that would tell them what is working now and how to change what is not working, without the consultant trying to prove a point. Rick Ives believes that the fire departments should do their own study first, especially on the different types of calls that they have responded to and what was needed. Patrick

Gauthier feels that the Commission needs to get someone that has no personal interest in the fire departments to do a true study, which could save money in the long term.

Jeffrey Otto does not care for the hiring of a consultant. He feels that they are not always impartial or factual. He provided statistics to the Commission about fire and medical calls made in Brooklyn between 2014-2010. Jeffrey Otto stated that there should be a plan in place for future years, especially to get recruitment numbers up. Discussion ensued.

Patrick Gauthier wants to hire a consultant and Jeffrey Otto opposes, but feels that if the Commission tries to do their own study and it does not work, then he would be in agreement to look into a consultant. Jeffrey Otto also said that for the most part the fire departments have just been replacing what needed to be replaced, but now they are thinking ahead and planning for the future. It was also discussed that in the future, if there was a need for more manpower, the Town would not be able to afford to employ firefighters. Discussion ensued

Jeffrey Otto is not sure how the Commission should go about the study. During the next meeting they will talk about how to go about creating the study for the trucks and manpower.

5. Unfinished Business – None

6. Motion to have the next meeting on a date to be determined at East Brooklyn Fire Department.

The Commission decided to try and hold the meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. Jeffrey Otto made a motion that the regular meetings of the Board of Fire Commission be changed to second Wednesday of every month starting with October of 2014. Peter Considine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be at East Brooklyn at 7:30pm (19:30) on October 8, 2014.

7. Motion to Adjourn

- Peter Considine made a motion to adjourn at 20:22. Motion seconded by Jeffery Otto. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted;
April N. Blymiller
Recording Secretary