

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 8, 2017  
7:30pm Mortlake Fire Department**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman, Peter Considine, called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. (19:31 hours).

**Attendance:** Peter Considine, Chairman; Lou Brodeur; Patrick Gauthier; Jeffrey Otto; Felix Ramos.  
Rick Ives was absent with notice. James Soler was absent.

**Others Present** – Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief; Stephen Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief; Sandra Brodeur; Heath Kesling.

- 2. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 14, 2016**

Motion was made by J. Otto to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2016.  
Second by F. Ramos. Motion carried (5-0-0).

- 3. Public Comment** – None.

- 4. Equipment Discussion**

J. Otto asked if there had been any progress on moving the decontamination trailer for which the Town is no longer the custodial owner. S. Breen said that they had not.

- 5. Department Discussion**

- a. Recruitment**

There was discussion regarding television ads that have been running, mostly late at night, for Connecticut Volunteer Fire Departments.

- 6. Financial Reports Discussion**

J. Otto stated that the budgets need to be consolidated and included in the Selectmen's budget. He suggested that the budgets be presented/received at this meeting, but that discussion be postponed until next month when Rick Ives will be in attendance. The Commissioners were in agreement with that.

**S. Breen presented the budget for Mortlake and provided copies:**

The total budget of \$142,925.00 shows a 12.4 percent (\$20,950.00) decrease from the previous year. He explained that they tried to make reasonable line-item adjustments while comparing the last 12 months of actual expenses to come up with the budget and that, going forward, they will be

on the same fiscal year as the Town. Regarding the increase in the Pay Per Call line item in the Ambulance Budget, he explained that they will be implementing a new program in an effort to keep the volunteers without having to go to a fully-paid staff 24/7. He feels that this plan will allow them to continue to operate with full-time paid people for only twelve hours a day for the next year and he hopes for longer.

Discussion ensued regarding the estimated Income line item and the new billing service.

No changes in the capital request (at this point). However, they need to start looking at replacing a significant number of packs as they are nearing the 15-year lifespan. J. Otto suggested that they take inventory soon and spread the replacement out over several years. J. Warren offered to work with S. Breen on leasing packs as a group to get a better price (he will forward info to S. Breen).

S. Breen stated that the cost of equipment has increased significantly over the last 15 years and the safety equipment budgets will need to be reviewed closely to ensure that the Departments are in line with what is needed. J. Otto explained that that kind of review of the program is reasonable to consider (also spreading out over several years and taking into considering the fluctuation in the number of fire fighters to equip).

Capital Request: Repairs to floor drain in apparatus bay - \$9,300.00. J. Otto stated that this item would need to be presented to the Town's Capital Committee.

There was discussion as to why the safety budget is separate from the fire budget.

Mr. Breen asked if Mr. Otto had any concerns regarding the Mortlake Budget. Mr. Otto stated that he does not know what is coming from the State and that, with what the Governor announced today, the local tax rate would need to increase about 2.5 mills just to stay even. He cannot promise that there won't be a request for the budgets to be lowered. It is going to be the roughest year for Town budgeting that he has ever seen.

**P. Gauthier presented the budget for East Brooklyn and provided copies.**

Mr. Gauthier explained that the new account numbers/categories have been incorporated as well as description. Total Budget \$100,881.00 (no change in what was requested).

There was discussion regarding transition of the existing budget line items to the new account numbers/categories.

**7. Other Business**

- J. Otto provided the Fire Reports for the month of January.
- L. Brodeur feels that it is time for Mortlake to look for a new insurance carrier as they are not happy with their current carrier. J. Otto explained the situation and he stated that there are two carriers (VFIS or EVIC) that write the kind of package insurance policies accumulate the

types of hazards that fire departments normally face. It is a matter of finding an agent to be the local contact and to service the account. Discussion ensued.

**8. Public Comment** – None.

**9. Next Meeting** – March 8, 2017 at East Brooklyn Fire Department

**10. Adjourn**

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. (20:14 hours). Second by F. Ramos. Motion carried (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault  
Recording Secretary