

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
7:30 pm Mortlake Fire Department**

1. Call to Order: Acting Chairman, Rick Ives called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. (19:32 hours).

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

Others Present – Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief; Sandra Brodeur.
Stephen Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief, was unable to attend. He was at a drill in Hampton.

2. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 8, 2017

Motion was made by J. Otto to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2017. Second by L. Brodeur. Motion carried (5-0-1). R. Ives abstained as he had not attended that meeting.

J. Otto commented that he is pretty sure (based on conversation with Chairman Peter Considine) that Mr. Considine sent the letter regarding the Board of Fire Commissioners' support of the \$9,300.00 request from Mortlake for the revamp of the drain in front of the apparatus room.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Equipment Discussion

J. Warren: Still looking for prices on packs (SCBA's): Scott is over \$9,500.00 and bottles are not interchangeable; Avon is cheaper - \$7,900.00 and interchangeable (Deputy Chief in Attawaugan is happy with them). There was discussion.

5. Department Discussion

a. Recruitment

J. Warren stated that they are still pushing.

J. Otto stated that he sent an e-mail to Steve, Jim and Peter regarding Redding which is considering improvements in their Volunteer Fire Fighter Incentive Program: \$1,000 property tax abatement; and proposing a pilot program with new incentives to retain/recruit volunteers (e.g. 50% off for families at town parks, free pass to transfer/recycling station, 10% discounts on Parks and Recreation programs). There was discussion:

- Expenses and time constraints;
- Hiring a consultant;

- Trying to get people back who have left because they have already been through training and already have gear;
- Commitment;
- More than one Department responding for routine calls.

6. Financial Reports Discussion

J. Otto gave a reminder to the two Departments that their budget presentations to the Board of Finance will be on Wednesday, April 19th at 7:15 p.m. There have been no questions regarding the quarterly reports.

7. Other Business

a. Budget Discussion - See above.

J. Otto stated that he made an inquiry to VFIS (not the insurance carrier being used now) and they are willing to come out and do a presentation. He suggested having the two major insurance companies compete with one another. L. Brodeur stated that policies are due July 1st so presentations next month would be good. R. Ives wants to be sure that the trucks are listed correctly. J. Otto will contact both carriers (with the type of coverages) and have them come in to do a review on the second Wednesday in May.

L. Brodeur asked about the blanket policy. J. Otto stated that the BFC decided not to renew that policy (two or three years ago). Mr. Brodeur stated that they are still being billed. R. Ives will get involved.

8. Public Comment

Sandra Brodeur stated that when the firemen's pension was first initiated, a lot of members (trained and experienced) who weren't active anymore came back and became active again to qualify for the pension. She also suggested a stipend (like they do for the ambulance) once they complete their probationary period. This helps to get people to show up for calls. Discussion ensued.

9. Next Meeting – May 10, 2017 at East Brooklyn Fire Department.

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. (20:02 hours). Second by P. Gauthier. Motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary