

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
7:30 pm Mortlake Fire Department**

To join this meeting via the web or phone, follow the below instructions:

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Enter meeting information: 173 274 1083

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MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** - Rick Ives, Acting Chair, called for informal discussion at 7:31 p.m. (19:31 hours). There was not a quorum.

Attendance: Rick Ives; Jeff Otto; Lou Brodeur; James Soler (joined the meeting at 7:33 p.m.). Patrick Gauthier was absent with notice. Felix Ramos was absent.

Others Present – S. Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief; Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief joined the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Ives asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Mr. Ives asked Mr. Breen to discuss the state of the Mortlake Fire Department.

Mr. Breen explained that they are exploring avenues to get money for cameras and a security system at the Station. He said that there is money available, but they have to have a safety study done through the Troop. He has spoken with Steve Caroti who will help them out.

Mr. Breen had a web meeting with Dr. Wexler two weeks ago. He said that there is still a long road ahead in dealing with COVID-19, maybe 18-24 months. It makes things regarding recruitment and retention more difficult.

Mr. Soler joined the meeting at this time, which made a quorum.

Mr. Ives called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. (19:34 hours).

2. **Approve Minutes**
 - a. **Regular Meeting of August 12, 2020**

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 12, 2020, as presented. Second by J. Soler. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Equipment Discussion

Mr. Otto asked that Mr. Breen give an update on the ET-190 Replacement Committee.

Mr. Breen explained that they have been meeting fairly regularly and have been making forward progress. They have been exploring a number of different manufacturers and three have come out to the Station with demo units to aid in deciding what will be best in the long term.

Mr. Otto asked if basic specifications will be similar to the existing ET.

Mr. Warren stated that it will be basically similar, but they are looking at expanding some of the capabilities such as front suction. The tank size and pump size will be relatively the same.

Mr. Otto asked Mr. Warren to report on the SUV vehicle that East Brooklyn is looking to obtain this year.

Mr. Warren explained that it should be at Vachon's by the 14th and that it should be in service by the end of the month.

5. Department Discussion

Mr. Ives asked Mr. Warren to discuss the state of the East Brooklyn Fire Department as he had asked Mr. Breen during Informal Discussion above.

Mr. Warren stated that they are waiting for the service truck which should be on the train by September 14th.

Mr. Ives noted that the call reports for August show that the Mortlake crew did not respond 16 times. He asked what the reason is.

Mr. Breen explained that they are short on volunteers during the overnight hours. One volunteer had surgery and another had a COVID-19 exposure and had to self-quarantine for 14 days. He said that they are looking for ways to alleviate the problem by either allowing those who are volunteering to schedule themselves for more shifts or looking into what can be done to cover more hours with paid staff. He said the ambulance is running on six people.

Mr. Ives commented that it will be hard to avoid these kinds of things.

Mr. Otto asked Mr. Warren to report on how COVID-19 is affecting operations in East Brooklyn.

Mr. Warren explained that they are still making it out to all of the calls. He said that most people are showing up and using the proper PPE and precautions.

Mr. Ives asked if there have been any availability issues regarding PPE. Both Departments are all set for now. Mr. Breen explained that it will be more confusing to read test results during cold/flu season. Both Departments will be having a flu vaccine clinic for First Responders.

a. Recruitment – See Above, Informal Discussion.

b. Retention – See Above, Informal Discussion.

c. Paid Staff

Mr. Ives stated that the Committee for Paid Staff will be meeting for the first time on the third Thursday in October (10/15/2020).

6. Financial Reports Discussion

Mr. Otto gave a reminder that the first quarter financial reports are due by October 31st, but if both Departments get them in by the 19th, the Board of Finance would be able to review them and their October meeting.

a. Budget Discussion – No Discussion.

7. Other Business

a. Review/Approve 2021 Schedule of Regular Meetings.

Mr. Ives asked if there was any interest in changing from meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. There were no suggestions for change.

Mr. Ives asked if there was any interest in changing the meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There was no opposition stated.

Motion was made by J. Otto to approve holding regular meetings in 2021 on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Second by L. Brodeur. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

Mr. Ives stated that he does not know when in-person meetings will be able to begin again.

8. Public Comment – None.

9. Next Meeting – October 14, 2020, at East Brooklyn Fire Department.

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by J. Otto to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. (19:49 hours). Second by L. Brodeur. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary