

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
7:00 pm**

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- 1. Call to Order** - Rick Ives, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. (19:04 hours).

Attendance: Rick Ives; Lou Brodeur; Patrick Gauthier; Michael Podzalne; Felix Ramos; Jeff Otto arrived at 7:06 p.m. James Soler was absent with notice.

Others Present – Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief; Sandra Brodeur; S. Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief, arrived at 6:12 p.m.

- 2. Approve Minutes**
 - a. Regular Meeting of December 9, 2020**

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2020, as presented. Second by P. Gauthier. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

- 3. Public Comment** – None.

- 4. Equipment Discussion** – Mr. Ives stated that he would like Mr. Breen to give an update on the scope for the new ET when he arrives at the meeting.

When S. Breen arrived, he explained that one manufacturer sent two prices and he is still waiting on others. He said that, judging from the two prices that came in, the \$650,000 placeholder will not be quite enough.

- 5. Department Discussion**

Mr. Ives called for a moment of silence to be observed in recognition of Patrick Dragon, Randy Daggett, and Bruce Cooper, all of whom passed recently.

Mr. Breen explained that call volumes are on average or slightly higher than last year (auto accidents and fire alarms were up). They have moved back to all virtual meetings and held their

annual elections. They had a couple of incidents of COVID exposure where they had to quarantine, but no one tested positive. It has been a challenging year.

a. Recruitment

Mr. Brodeur stated that they haven't been doing much due to COVID-19.

Mr. Breen stated that they have six or seven new members this year.

b. Retention – No discussion.

c. Paid Staff – No discussion, but will be discussed at the next meeting and will also revive the Committee that had been formed.

6. Financial Reports Discussion

a. Budget Discussion

Mr. Ives asked if everyone is working on their budgets.

- Lou Brodeur stated that it is looking like Mortlake will be able to keep the budget the same as last year, although there are some questions that need to be answered (e.g. insurance) and they can move some money around.
- J. Warren stated that East Brooklyn will have a zero-percent increase.

Budgets are to be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Ives stated that he had received East Brooklyn's quarterly report (which P. Gauthier had e-mailed to him) earlier in the day.

There was discussion regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Protocol. Mr. Ives explained that he met with the Governor's Office and with the Health Department. He explained that we are done with Phase 1A (Nursing Homes and First Responders) and are moving to Phase 1B tomorrow with a portal:

- People over the age of 75 are first.
- Essential Workers (which includes Fire, EMT, Teachers and maybe others to be determined) will be next.
- Next will be those over 65 years of age.
- Next will be under 65 years of age with certain medical conditions.

These groups total approximately 1 million people.

Most of the ambulance people have received their first dose. Firefighters will be in the second group.

7. Other Business

- Mr. Ives explained that everyone should stay on top of vaccinations. There was discussion.
- Capital will be discussed next month as well as budgets.

8. Public Comment – None.

9. Next Meeting – February 10, 2021 (East Brooklyn).

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. (19:21 hours). Second by P. Gauthier. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary

***PLEASE NOTE: Meetings to continue to be held via WebEx until they are able to be held in person at the Fire Stations.**