

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
7:00 pm**

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

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Enter meeting information: 126 882 0174

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1. **Call to Order** - Rick Ives, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. (19:10 hours).

Attendance: Rick Ives; Lou Brodeur; Michael Podzalne; Jeff Otto; Felix Ramos; Patrick Gauthier arrived at 7:32 p.m. but was in and out throughout the meeting due to technical difficulties.
James Soler was absent.

Others Present – Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief arrived at 7:32 p.m. but was in and out throughout the meeting due to technical difficulties; S. Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief, arrived at 7:02 p.m.; David Lee, Mortlake Assistant Chief; John Ogozalek, Mortlake; Sandra Brodeur; Russell Skeine arrived at 7:15 p.m.

2. **Approve Minutes**
 - a. **Special Meeting of February 18, 2021**

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 18, 2021.
Second by J. Otto.

Discussion:

- J. Otto commented regarding where Mr. Breen had stated that Mortlake had no changes to the safety equipment budget. Mr. Otto stated that the safety budget had not been included in Mortlake's budget that was submitted.
S. Breen explained that there is a tab at the bottom of the excel sheet.
R. Ives stated that there is agreement that there is no change.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

3. **Public Comment** – None.

4. **Equipment Discussion**

There was discussion regarding review of the specs for Mortlake's new truck which Mr. Breen had provided. Mr. Otto's list of 27 questions (which he had provided to the Commissioners) were answered by Mr. Breen.

Mr. Otto's main concern was whether a competitive bid process can be completed in time to generate a number that can be used as a Capital request as part of this year's budget. The Capital Committee has to meet before April 21st.

Mr. Ives explained that it is not required to go out to bid before it goes to Capital, but what is required is an estimate.

Mr. Breen explained that he has a range of price for what they need (\$711,000 - \$780,000) and, once approval is received from the Town, they can proceed with the final specs to manufacturers for the bid process. He has prices for two different Pierce trucks, a Spartan and a Toine (there was another which didn't come close to what is wanted so it was taken off the table). Mr. Breen will provide copies of the specifications that he sent to manufacturers.

- Strategy for replacing ET-190
Hose tender no longer on the Town Capital replacement plan. Addition of front suction which requires more equipment to carry. Specified to carry 1500 feet of 5-inch hose to make up a small difference of the amount of supply line that they would be losing with loss of the hose tender. A useable tool for easier drafting of the tanks to be a nurse truck for others on a scene.
- 1000 feet of 5-inch hose vs. 1500 feet of 5-inch hose.
Final spec to include space for 1500.
- 2000 gallon per minute pump.
No cost difference – same as 1500 gallon per minute pump. Easier to maintain as it ages. Adjustments can be made.
- Estimate of maximum flow rate with a single 6-inch suction line.
950 gallons per minute.
Mr. Otto suggested looking into reducing the size of the pump to 1250 to reduce cost.
- Cost reduction potential going with a smaller pump or smaller engine.
Difference in price between 400 horse and a 450 is \$974.
- Why carrying three lengths of suction hose when 4 lengths are required to reach pumping capacity.
You need a total of 20 feet of suction. Three lengths of greater than 8 feet meets the rated capacity of the pump. Mr. Breen can look more closely into this.
- Tank size.
Looking for a minimum of 1000 gallons.
- Desire larger tank size if possible.
Would not mind up to 1200, but would not want to sacrifice compartment size to do that.
Mr. Otto suggested that decreasing the size of the rear compartment and relocation of one of the hose reels would allow for 150-200 gallon increase in tank size.
There was discussion.
- Tank valves on the back.
At 100 psi, the tank would be filled in less than two minutes. The valve will be as low as it possibly can with the construction of the truck. Many manufacturers are putting them up higher and harder to reach.
Mr. Otto suggested that there is room in the back to get a 2 ½ line snaked around in there into the tank.
- Suction line.

Three-inch.

- Suction side relief valves. The style valves Pierce is quoting are not suitable to protect the pumps in the way we use trucks here in eastern Connecticut. You need a relief valve which operates at the lowest possible pressure and has a high-volume discharge outside the truck. Mr. Otto explained that the Triton relief-valve system does all of that and suggested that it be specified.
Mr. Breen will look at it.
- Amount of time to build the vehicle.
About 330-350 days.
- Rough estimate.
The only rough estimate they have is about \$12,500 for the trade.
- Town of Brooklyn would be the owner, so they would need to be on all of the documents.
- Small equipment valued at \$27,000.
They can supply a tremendous amount of it, but there are some things that they need to upgrade due to the age. There would be significant savings there.
- Siren not listed in small equipment list.
If they chose to transfer what they have or provide it themselves, it would be a savings from them or cost to us of about \$2,500.
- Gold leaf.
Gagnon will be doing the lettering.
- Moving the bell.
The bell will be moved, but they don't know yet where it will go. They will work it out with the manufacturer.
- Why need electrically operated hose bed covers.
Explained that with the height of the truck, it is not safe for somebody to go up there and it is worth every penny to keep someone from getting hurt.
- There will be an outlet on top of the truck which will be transferred from the current ET.
Will not be a hydraulically telescoping pipe.
- Why two 2.5 inch pre-connected lines (one at rear and one at the crossway).
They want options to be able to quickly deploy more than one 2.5-inch line.
- Statement of exceptions at the time of bid rather than at the time of delivery of the vehicle.
Mr. Breen agreed.
- Performance Bond. Mr. Otto suggested that, with Pierce, you may not need to pay \$2,500 of cost of bond.
Mr. Ives expressed caution. He would want to see a financial statement.
- Strobe light to control the street lights to be on the truck.
It will be part of the light bar.
- Consider central engine generator rather than hydrogen.
A diesel generator, over the life of the truck, would have a higher cost of maintenance and upkeep, so they will go with the hydrogen.
- Pressure governor vs. pressure relief valve.

Have had a lot of trouble with pressure relief valves and pressure governors seem to work a lot smoother.

Mr. Otto asked if they intend to send the final specifications out to other prospective manufacturers. Mr. Breen will re-send e-mail.

Mr. Ives commented that he would like this group to support the truck before it goes to Capital. He explained that there is time to discuss this more at the next meeting and make a decision (Mr. Breen's report on bidders' responses will be reviewed), and then have it go to Capital before it goes to the Board of Finance on April 22nd.

There was discussion regarding pump size. There was discussion regarding the number to the Capital Committee. There was discussion regarding the color which will be either all red or red and white. There was discussion regarding whether the equipment list will be a separate Capital item.

Mr. Breen gave an update on the ambulance that was damaged when it fell off of the lift while being serviced. It should be back in service by the end of this month.

5. Department Discussion

- a. Recruitment** – No discussion.
- b. Retention** - No discussion.
- c. Paid Staff** - No discussion.

6. Financial Reports Discussion

Mr. Otto explained that there may be some comments from the Board of Finance regarding the quarterly reports which he will forward to the Fire Departments.

a. Budget Discussion

Mr. Otto commented that the Board of Finance will be looking to review the budgets from the two Departments at its next meeting (Wednesday, March 16th). Representatives from each Department should attend.

There was discussion regarding the water line to East Brooklyn Fire Department. Mr. Gauthier referred to an e-mail that he had sent. Mr. Gauthier asked if there could be an allocation of \$4,500 from the Town for an engineering study. Mr. Ives suggested using the Town Engineer so it won't cost anything. He will set it up tomorrow.

7. Other Business – None.

8. Public Comment – None.

9. Next Meeting – April 14, 2021 (East Brooklyn).

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. (20:09 hours). Second by M. Podzalne. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (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.**