

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021  
7:00 pm**

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- 1. Call to Order** - Rick Ives, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. (19:06 hours).

**Attendance:** Rick Ives; Lou Brodeur; Michael Podzaline; Jeff Otto.

Felix Ramos, Patrick Gauthier and James Soler were absent with notice.

**Others Present** – Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief; S. Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief; David Lee, Mortlake Assistant Chief; Russell Skeine; Sandra Brodeur.

- 2. Approve Minutes**
  - a. Regular Meeting of March 10, 2021**

Motion was made by J. Otto to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2021. Second by L. Brodeur. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0).

- 3. Public Comment** – None.

- 4. Equipment Discussion** – No discussion.

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

- 6. Financial Reports Discussion**

Mr. Otto stated that there were no questions raised on the quarterly reports that had been submitted. He commented that the next set of quarterly reports are due in May, but he said that it would be great if they could be submitted the third Wednesday of the month following the end of

the quarter. He said that the budgets for both Fire Departments were briefly reviewed and received by the Board of Finance for further consideration.

**a. Budget Discussion**

Mr. Ives noted that the Board of Fire Commissioners is scheduled to present Capital to the Board of Finance on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. He wants to be sure that Mortlake will be getting the truck that is wanted and needed, however, he is concerned about the price and said that he had met with Mr. Breen to discuss this.

S. Breen spoke about his discussion with Mr. Ives. He explained that, based on the questions raised/discussions at the last meeting of the Fire Commissioners, he met again with the Truck Committee and they made some clarifications, adjustments and corrections, as needed, through that spec. They sent it back out to truck manufacturers that they had heard from before, however, in most cases, the ballpark figures that they had given previously went up. He said that they will do everything that they can to keep the price of the truck in check. He said they only heard back from two manufacturers and Pierce did not want to give a ballpark price as they previously had done. Spartan went from \$711,000 to \$743,000. He explained that they will look at things like new equipment vs. transferring some of the old equipment and will whittle down as much as they can. He feels strongly about putting a truck in place that this Town needs over the next 20-25 years and he feels that what is in their specification is in the right direction of what is needed. He asked that up to \$750,000 be approved for this truck knowing that they will do their best to come in underneath that.

Mr. Ives agreed with Mr. Breen's synopsis of their discussion and he suggested that there be another meeting to talk about a few specific things before this goes to the Capital Committee. He feels that the Board of Fire Commissioners has the responsibility to make sure that we've got the right number and the right pieces. He would like to see the number be \$700,000.

There was discussion regarding Pierce vs. Spartan. Mr. Breen noted that the majority of truck manufacturers are putting their vehicles onto Spartan cabin chassis. He said that they have specified the type of pump and drive train and that it is going to boil down to body style and construction compartmentation, suspension issues, plumbing around the pump (outlets/hose beds, etc.). He stated that the Spartan is a more than adequate vehicle of good quality. He said that it does not have to be a Pierce, but they want to be sure that they are dealing with a reputable and quality truck manufacturer. They are continuing to meet with other manufacturers to look at what the options are.

Mr. Otto commented that other manufacturers may have had a hard time developing their best price when looking at specs involving another manufacturer. Mr. Otto met with Firematic (Long Island) who sent him the Pierce option list (without prices). He said that they were in agreement that there were some errors with the way Pierce bid. He suggested meeting with Truck Committee to review the mistakes shown and also to talk about cost reductions for not including particular items in the vehicle. He said that this could amount to more than \$125,000.

Mr. Breen agreed with meeting and Mr. Ives will work on setting it up tomorrow to meet before April 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Ives would like to be in substantial agreement regarding being on the right track

to take a maximum number (knowing that we will try to do better) to the Board of Finance to begin with. Mr. Breen stated agreement that he feels that we are headed in the right direction for getting what we need without compromise. He is willing to listen to ways to save money or about different ways that something can be done. Mr. Brodeur, who is on the Truck Committee, stated that they have been working with a lot of different manufacturers and they are meeting with Rosenbauer tomorrow and he said that Toine is very interested in bidding on this truck. Mr. Brodeur feels that if they put out an RFP, Pierce wouldn't be in the ballpark. Mr. Podzalne feels that meeting with the Truck Committee is a good idea.

There was discussion regarding Toine and commercial chassis vs. custom fire engine chassis. Mr. Otto would like to discuss this at the meeting with the Truck Committee.

Mr. Otto commented regarding sending specifications to manufacturers that are written around somebody else's truck, they don't respond.

#### **7. Other Business**

Mr. Otto asked for an update on the running of the water line to the East Brooklyn Fire Station. Mr. Ives explained that he is working on whether he can recommend that federal funds be used for that project. He has not yet received information regarding how much money will be received or what can/cannot be done with it. It will not be in Capital – it will be separate from our budget.

There was discussion regarding polluted wells on three properties in the vicinity of the jail and whether a hydrant would be located at the end of that line. Mr. Breen spoke with someone from CT Water who stated that they would need some means to flush that section of line out. Mr. Ives stated that he would call and ask again.

#### **8. Public Comment – None.**

#### **9. Next Meeting – May 12, 2021 (East Brooklyn).**

#### **10. Adjourn**

Motion was made by J. Otto to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. (19:39 hours). Second by Lou Brodeur. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (4-0-0).

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.**