

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
7:30 pm Mortlake Fire Department**

1. **Call to Order** Rick Ives, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. (19:33 hours).

Attendance: Rick Ives; Jeff Otto; Lou Brodeur; Patrick Gauthier; James Soler. Felix Ramos was absent with notice.

Others Present – S. Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief; Matt Bomster, East Brooklyn Fire Department; Sandra Brodeur; Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief, arrived at approximately 7:35 p.m.

1. **Approve Minutes**
 - a. **Regular Meeting of September 11, 2019**

Motion was made by J. Otto to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2019 with the following correction:

- Page 1, last bullet point to read as follows:
“L. Brodeur commented that, at the Fair, they got 8-10 High School Students needing community service hours. There may be some interest to stay on.”

Second by L. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously with the noted correction (5-0-0).

2. **Public Comment** – None.

4. **Equipment Discussion**

S. Breen reported:

- Mortlake re-designated two of the trucks: ET-290 is now Tanker 190 and Engine 190 is now Hose Tender 190. This was done to label the trucks more appropriately as to what their job actually is and to alleviate confusion with mutual aid requests for specific equipment.
- ET-190 is due for replacement. He asked how quickly he needs to get numbers prepared. According to the Capital Plan, it is on for the year after next.

Jim Warren gave an update on East Brooklyn's truck:

- They are working on the cab now (painting).
- Plumbing is done.
- Should get a call regarding final inspection in a couple of weeks.

5. **Department Discussion**

- a. **Recruitment**

J. Otto asked about a single phone number to serve as a contact point for people interested in joining either Department, as had been previously discussed. Mr. Ives stated that he will come up with a number.

Mr. Otto asked if anything has come of the Killingly High School students needing community service credits. Mr. Breen stated that there are a couple that wanted applications, but he is not sure of the level of membership they are interested in. There was discussion regarding what level is available for that age range (16-17 year olds).

b. Retention – No discussion.

c. Paid Staff

Subcommittee Members: S. Breen; J. Warren; Bill Skeene; Patrick Dragon, Felix Ramos.

R. Ives stated that it needs to be run as an official subcommittee which requires postings and minutes. Mission: To explore paid fire/EMT personnel. Mr. Ives does not feel that it is imperative to have something put in place, but what is important is to have a strategy that we can work with in a relatively short time. P. Gauthier agreed and asked, “What do we do when we don’t have anyone to respond for daytime staffing.” Mr. Ives explained that having a strategy with some ways to put it into effect would be needed if that were to happen. There was discussion regarding Canterbury where they raised the rate of pay. J. Otto feels that if the Town were to employ more than two people, it may not take long before the union would get involved.

6. Financial Reports Discussion

J. Otto stated that first quarter reports should have been received in October. Both Department will submit their reports.

a. Budget Discussion

Submit rough draft to Mr. Ives in middle of January. Submit to Board of Finance in March.

7. Other Business

a. Review 2020 Schedule of Regular Meetings

Motion was made by J. Otto to continue to hold regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Odd months to be held at Mortlake Fire Department and even months to be held at East Brooklyn Fire Department. Second by L. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

8. Public Comment

Sandra Brodeur suggested that there be a rewards program for the volunteers when paid fire staff is implemented.

R. Ives suggested coming up with a plan for a rewards program and that it involve some tax abatement (minimum requirements of involvement to be eligible) and perhaps a stipend of some type (show up and do something). He feels it should reward the people who are active and give incentive for people to become more active as well as give incentive for people to join. He asked that the Commission Members come up with something so that it can be implemented by next July. There was discussion regarding younger people and tax abatement. Mr. Breen will prepare something for the next meeting.

Patrick Gauthier mentioned the Santa Run on December 14th.

9. Next Meeting – December 11, 2019, at East Brooklyn Fire Department.

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Second by J. Otto. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary