

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 11, 2021
7:00 pm via Cisco Webex &
Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

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

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On the top right, click Join

Enter meeting information: 126 882 0174

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Enter meeting number: 126 882 0174

Enter meeting password: 75224947

- 1. Call to Order** - Rick Ives, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (19:00 hours).

Attendance: Rick Ives; Lou Brodeur; Jeff Otto, Patrick Gauthier (all present in person).

Michael Podzalne (present via Webex); James Solar (arrived via Webex at approximately 7:05 p.m.)

Felix Ramos was absent with notice.

Others Present – S. Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief; Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief (both present in person); J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary (via Webex).

- 2. Approve Minutes**
 - a. Regular Meeting of May 12, 2021**

Motion was made by J. Otto to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2021 with the following corrections:

- Page 1, second line from the bottom correct “fuel” to “reel”
- Page 2, second line from the top, correct “set up a draft” to “set up 2 drafts”
- Correct all instances of “cabin chassis” to “cab and chassis”
- Page 3, correct all instances of “SCVA” to “SCBA”

Second by M. Podzalne.

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

- 3. Public Comment** – None.

- 4. Equipment Discussion**

There was discussion regarding the new Mortlake truck. Mr. Brodeur provided copies of a spreadsheet (a summary of the specifications) to Members. Mr. Breen gave a brief summary:

- Staying with the 1,500 gallon per minute pump

- Additions: Front Suction; Suction Hoses; Track Line; Extended Bumper.
- The main difference is going to be that the hose bed is going to be made to carry 1,500 feet of 5-inch as opposed to 1,000 feet of orange.
- They will have covers that they do not have now.
- The truck is going to have an LED light tower which they do not have now.
- Keeping the deck guard that they already have.

Discussion ensued and questions were answered involving the following topics: long driveways and hose length; no substantial drafting role assigned to this vehicle; cab length; eliminating safety features is not recommended to get the price down; interior relief valves on 6-inch suction hose; suction-side relief valve size.

Mr. Otto commented and there was discussion about prepaying \$600,000 which reduces the price to \$702,026, minus trade-in. They will buy a new ladder and may need to buy a new hose which they would purchase through their safety equipment account.

5. Department Discussion

a. Recruitment

J. Warren stated that East Brooklyn has two new Members who are taking classes.

S. Breen stated that, over the last six months, they have recruited four new young Members and they received another application today.

b. Retention – No discussion.

c. Paid Staff – No discussion.

6. Financial Reports Discussion

J. Otto commented that the next Financial Reports are due in October for the first quarter in the new fiscal year. It would be appreciated if the Departments could get them in early.

a. Budget Discussion – No discussion.

7. Other Business

J. Otto commented that he had brought up discussion at the last meeting regarding adverse financial effects on the Town of Colchester due to the Fire Department not being in compliance with some of the OSHA requirements. He had e-mailed information pertaining to this issue to Members earlier in the day and he asked that the Members review it.

Mr. Otto also e-mailed the following for review by the Members:

- United States Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Document which he said that he hopes that all are in compliance with the standard (breathing apparatus). He would like to see (in a month or so) a presentation from both Departments to assure that they are in compliance with the OSHA standard.
- Sample Fire Department Respiratory Protection Program (he provided hard copies as well) to be sure that it is being administered correctly. He hopes that there is a program being followed for the 10-year life on turn-out gear to determine the actual age of this equipment.

Mr. Warren stated that his air packs are all set - tested and up-to-date. There was discussion about what can be bought with grant money received every year.

- Required Minimum Training for Connecticut Fire Services to Meet State Regulations.

Mr. Otto reviewed this document and his comments included the following:

He stated that it takes ten years to get through the training program, so frequency has to be somewhat higher than the minimum requirement.

All training (delivered by a competent instructor) has to have an evaluation component and participants have to pass the evaluation to receive credit for the training.

Mr. Otto commented on many of the listed requirements.

Mr. Ives explained that it is good to have these conversations. Mr. Otto said that the Fire Commissioners should ask each of the Fire Companies to certify annually that they are in compliance with all of these requirements. He said that they should talk about how the Fire Companies will document or certify that are in compliance.

8. Public Comment – None.

9. Next Meeting – September 8, 2021 (Mortlake).

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by J. Otto to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. (19:40 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.**