

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
7:30 p.m. East Brooklyn Fire Department**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman, Peter Considine, called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. (19:28 hours).

**Attendance:** Peter Considine, Chairman; Stephen C. Breen; Richard Ives; Jeffrey Otto; James Soler.

Patrick Gauthier and Felix Ramos were absent with notice.

**Others Present** – Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief; Lou Brodeur, Mortlake Fire Chief.

2. **Public Comment** – None.

3. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** 1/13/2016

Motion by J. Otto to approve the Minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2016, as presented. Second by J. Solar. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **2016 Budget Discussion**

J. Otto stated that this is expected to be a difficult budget year averaging a 1.94 percent increase in the Grand List.

J. Warren stated that the budget for East Brooklyn is not changing. The drafts are all done.

R. Ives stated that the budgets are due to the Board of Finance on the third Wednesday of March.

L. Brodeur provided copies and explained a report for the Mortlake Fire Company that he had prepared entitled, 2016 – 2017 Fire and Ambulance Budget Proposals. He explained that the surplus of \$8,300.00 is due to not being able to do repairs to the parking lot as intended in the fall (it will be done in the spring after the cold weather).

R. Ives asked if the numbers are still ok for gear. Both Chiefs stated yes.

L. Brodeur explained that they are estimating that \$40,000.00 would be needed to supplement the ambulance next year (2016/2017 fiscal budget). They have analyzed different ways to handle emergency services. He spoke of hiring combination fire fighters and emergency responders hopefully before the end of the year. He will be contacting the Department of Labor. Discussion ensued regarding the number of hours, benefits, who the employer should be, and mutual aid. S. Breen stated that staffing the ambulance is the most immediate concern. J. Otto stated that the objective is to drive the subsidy number down to zero and he asked that the Town have an opportunity to participate in discussions as it ends up being a Town expenditure. L. Brodeur stated

that there is a committee working on this and that he wanted to bring it up now to avoid surprises when they ask for approval.

J. Solar asked about the building line item that went up for the ambulance by \$2,400.00. L. Brodeur and Sandy Brodeur (seated in the audience) answered that there were repairs: ambulance bay door was replaced; ambulance bay was painted.

There was discussion suggesting ways to make reductions, the Capital Request for replacement of the generator. Is the Town eligible for the 1033 Federal Surplus Program? J. Solar will forward information to L. Brodeur.

J. Warren provided copies of the 2016 – 2017 Draft Budget for East Brooklyn Fire Department. J. Otto commented that it was exactly the same as last year.

Motion by J. Otto to defer action on the budget requests until the next meeting of the Fire Commissioners to give everyone a chance to look at them in more detail. Second by R. Ives. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

This will allow time to take action before the Board of Finance needs to look at them.

## **5. Other Business**

J. Otto stated that each fire company should have a representative, who can comment on the quarterly report and answer questions, at the Board of Finance meeting this month (February 17<sup>th</sup>).

J. Otto mentioned that there will be a meeting (for first responders) regarding a report done by a consultant concerning the current status and future aspects of the emergency medical service in the NECCOG area. There will be discussion about what can be done to improve EMS in northeastern Connecticut. He hopes that someone from each Department can attend.

## **6. Public Comment**

**Sandy Brodeur** asked if a report had been issued that could be reviewed before the NECCOG meeting. J. Otto stated that it is available on the website and also may be obtained by requesting it from NECCOG.

J. Warren stated that he had obtained information regarding leasing fire trucks and provided copies of quotes that he had received.

J. Otto provided copies, and gave an overview, of a report that he had prepared comparing new apparatus costs vs. buying used vs. refurbishing. The report also contained replacements schedules. He indicated that it may be more cost effective to purchase new.

There was discussion regarding leasing as an option. J. Solar mentioned the possibility of USDA Grants/Small City Grants. R. Ives stated that the Town is eligible. J. Otto stated that the application

should be ready in August or September because the grant money gets exhausted quickly. There was more discussion.

J. Otto provided copies of the Fire and Medical Calls Report for January.

Next meeting to be held March 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at Mortlake.

## **7. Adjourn**

Motion by R. Ives to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. (20:15 hours). Second by J. Solar. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault  
Recording Secretary