

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, August 10, 2016  
7:30pm Mortlake Fire Station**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman, Peter Considine, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. (19:35 hours).

**Attendance:** Peter Considine, Chairman; Patrick Gauthier; Richard Ives; Jeffrey Otto; Felix Ramos; James Soler.

Stephen C. Breen was absent with notice.

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

**2. Approve Previous Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 9, 2016.**

Motion by J. Otto to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting (March 9, 2016) as presented. Second by J. Soler. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**3. Public Comment** – None.

**4. Equipment Discussion**

J. Otto opened the discussion. He explained that the total cost of apparatus replacement is at \$150,000 to \$200,000 to be set aside per year (on a 25-year replacement schedule) and he said that the Commissioners should do everything that they can to be certain that this is the level of expenditures that the Town should be making or look at a different level of expenditure.

R. Ives stated that he had been to a convention and it was noted by every speaker that the number of fire calls are at the lowest point ever and that Towns should use mutual aid, buy less fire trucks, and concentrate everything on EMS. They also spoke, at the convention, about how to attract volunteers. He stated that these two items are what the Commission should focus on.

There was discussion regarding recruiting young volunteers. P. Gauthier stated that there isn't enough affordable housing in Brooklyn to attract younger people to Town. Discussion ensued including cost for classes, people not wanting to commit, not wanting to re-certify, enforcing a contract due to investing in a new recruit by paying for classes.

There was discussion regarding EMS and paramedics. Paramedics are available most of the time, but there is more of a problem with getting fire volunteers. J. Otto will look at response times.

**5. Department Discussion**

**6. Financial Reports Discussion**

J. Otto stated that there will be a discussion at the next Board of Finance Meeting (August 17<sup>th</sup>). R. Ives stated that they are working on a Standardized Chart of Accounts. Mr. Otto asked that East Brooklyn list budget

amounts by category. Mr. Otto stated that there is a \$5,700 surplus in Ambulance (Mortlake) for the year and he assumes that it will be transferred back to the Town.

Copies of the East Brooklyn and Mortlake Budgets for 2015-2016 were distributed.

R. Ives asked about the diesel fuel expenditure. L. Brodeur stated that he does not have keys.

## **7. Other Business**

J. Otto provided copies of and reported on the Fire and Medical Calls Report. About 136 Fire Calls for January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016.

## **8. Public Comment**

**Sandy Brodeur** asked if there is a tentative replacement schedule to review between this meeting and the next meeting. Mr. Otto referenced (and provided a copy of) the one discussed in February or March 2016. He gave an explanation. Greatest savings comes from questioning whether you need all the apparatus you currently have. There was discussion regarding insurance on fire trucks and ratings.

**Sandy Brodeur** asked if the two Fire Departments had been consulted at all for the preparation of the schedule. She asked that the two Departments be able to work together as, currently, the two Chiefs do cooperate with each other. There was discussion. J. Otto stated that it would be helpful if the two Departments come to the next meeting with some thoughts to be discussed.

L. Brodeur stated that he and Jim Warren met and had discussed that both ET's in Town definitely need to be replaced.

J. Warren explained how to save money on two new/newer trucks:

- \$200,000 to refurbish Mortlake's ET (L. Brodeur will bring ball park figures to next meeting.)
- East Brooklyn Mini-Pumper cost \$195,000 - \$200,000 (with trade KME). J. Warren will bring a proposal next month.

J. Otto stated that this proposal should be seriously considered. The Commission was in agreement to put this on next month's agenda. P. Gauthier asked about how the insurance rating would relate to trucks. J. Otto will get the outline of the ISO Schedule.

Next Meeting of the Brooklyn Fire Commissioners: September 14, 2016, at the East Brooklyn Fire Station, at 7:30 p.m.

## **9. Adjourn**

Motion by J. Otto to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Second by J. Soler. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault  
Recording Secretary