

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 8, 2017
7:30 pm East Brooklyn Fire Department**

1. Call to Order: Chairman, Peter Considine, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. (19:30 hours).

Attendance: Peter Considine, Chairman; Lou Brodeur; Patrick Gauthier; Jeffrey Otto.
Rick Ives and Felix Ramos were absent with notice. James Soler was absent.

Others Present – Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief; Stephen Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief; Sandra Brodeur; Melissa Long; Matt Bomster; Tyler Zani.

2. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 8, 2017

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2017.
Second by J. Otto. Motion carried (4-0-0).

3. Public Comment

P. Considine read a letter from Denise Coffey, Staff Writer for the Hartford Courant Community News, commending the work of the Recording Secretary.

There were no comments from the public.

4. Equipment Discussion

P. Gauthier stated that there had been discussion regarding the potential lease agreement for SCBA's:

J. Warren stated that they are replacing the air packs that are outdated and that they will probably go with Avon because they are cheaper (\$69,000.00 for ten packs). Tanks can be swapped with Scott now. Lease will be for five years, then when the lease payments are done (in five years), they will own them for another ten years. They are guaranteed for 15 years (whole pack). They will also be throwing in a thermal imaging camera worth \$7,900.00. He stated that he had told S. Breen that he got them to guarantee the price for next year also. S. Breen stated that he is not sure where Mortlake is with its replacement schedule. He will figure out what is needed and when. There was discussion regarding leasing vs. buying. P. Gauthier stated that the money is billed into the plan that they already have. J. Otto stated that there are plenty of good reasons to consider it.

5. Department Discussion

a. Recruitment

J. Otto had a flyer on the Volunteer Workforce Solutions Day (March 24th or 25th) which representatives of either Department could attend. It is a four-year program, however, the first two

years had focused on recruitment and the focus for the next two years is on subsidy of equipment. Selected participants receive grant money (International Association of Fire Chiefs) to be used for specific expenditures such as physical examinations and discounts on some equipment.

6. Financial Reports Discussion – No Discussion (see Budget Discussion below).

7. Other Business

a. Budget Discussion

J. Otto explained that he had met with Rick Ives yesterday, due to the budget discussion being postponed from last month to this month and also due to Mr. Ives not being able to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Otto stated that neither he, nor Mr. Ives, have any issues with the Budgets as they had been presented. Mr. Otto recommends that the Budgets be approved. He explained that the Board of Finance is asking that all agencies of the Town develop, on their own, a minus 5 percent and a minus 10 percent contingency budget because it is not known what amount of money will come from the State of Connecticut. Depending on what happens with the Board of Education, Brooklyn's mill rate could possibly go up roughly 2.5 percent just to stay even, but there are other factors that could come into play to reduce costs to the Town. Mr. Otto stated that all Town Departments have a responsibility to put together a budget that will allow the Town to do what it has to do. Discussion ensued regarding timeline. Mr. Otto stated that this may be the first time in history, that he knows of, that the Selectmen may have to set a budget based on the statutory provisions for doing so without having the figures in front of them.

Motion was made by J. Otto that the East Brooklyn Fire Department Budget Request be approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners. Second by L. Brodeur. Motion carried (4-0-0).

Motion was made by J. Otto that the Mortlake Fire Company and Ambulance Budgets be accepted by the Board of Fire Commissioners, as presented. Second by P. Gauthier. Motion carried (4-0-0).

- J. Otto stated that the capital request for the repair of the drainage ditch in front of the apparatus bay at the Mortlake Fire Station had been presented to the Capital Committee last week and that there was discussion.

Motion was made by Mr. Otto suggesting that Board of Fire Commissioners send a letter to the Capital Committee indicating that they have reviewed and support Mortlake Fire Company's request in the amount of \$9,300.00 in capital funds. Second by P. Gauthier. Motion carried (4-0-0).

P. Considine will write the letter. J. Otto offered to assist.

- There was discussion regarding insurance (blanket policy). J. Otto spoke with VFIS and they are willing to come to Brooklyn to do a presentation and look at coverages, etc. EVIC does not publicize the names of their agents. Mr. Otto suggested that Mortlake Fire Company call and ask for the name of another agent to have them come in also.
- J. Otto provided the Fire Reports via e-mail.

8. Public Comment – None.

9. Next Meeting – April 12, 2017 at Mortlake Fire Department

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by J. Otto to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. (19:49 hours). Second by L. Brodeur. Motion carried (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault

Recording Secretary