

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
7:30 pm Mortlake Fire Department**

- 1. Call to Order** **Call to Order: First Selectman**, Richard Ives called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. (19:30 hours).

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

Others Present – Jim Warren, East Brooklyn Fire Chief; Steve Breen, Mortlake Fire Chief; Sandra Brodeur; Retired Police Officer, Patrick Dragon.

- 2. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 14, 2018**

Motion was made by L. Brodeur to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2018, as presented. Second by J. Otto. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

- 3. Public Comment**

Patrick Dragon, presented an idea for recruitment - an EMS mountain bike team. He explained that he has completed training through the International Police Mountain Bike Association and he is now certified. He explained that there is training specific to EMS and that it would enable better accessibility for events such as the Brooklyn Fair, parades, etc. There are approximately 300 agencies around the country that utilize mountain bikes for major events. He stated that a mountain bike team can reduce response time by half. He feels that it may be an incentive to get people involved in the EMT course who may not have thought about it before. He also feels that it may establish more cohesiveness between the two Departments. Killingly Officer, Jon Lei is a certified law enforcement instructor and is looking into taking the EMS aspect of the course to be able to provide that instruction. Mr. Dragon is also looking into becoming certified as an EMS mountain bike instructor.

Mr. Dragon spoke about 32-hour course that would need to be taken and about the bikes which can be purchased and serviced locally. Discussion ensued.

After the meeting, Mr. Dragon gave a presentation of his own personal mountain bike which he had brought for viewing by those who were interested.

Mr. Dragon will research the cost of the training and make a recommendation for the number of people that would be needed. He stated that it is safest to work in teams.

At this time, there was a fire call and both Fire Chiefs left the meeting.

4. Equipment Discussion

- P. Gauthier mentioned that the mandatory 5-year replacement of the Scott packs is around the corner.
- There was discussion about hoses.
- L. Brodeur explained that their ET was in an accident on Laurel Hill Road during one of the ice storms. He explained the damage to the truck. They changed their chain policy to be more proactive.
S. Breen reported that accident to McNeil and the vehicle was taken to Bowen's. The vehicle will be out of service for 3-to-4 weeks. Mr. Brodeur guessed that the damage is probably \$5,000.00 or more. There was discussion. Some rust will be fixed at the same time.

5. Department Discussion

a. Recruitment

S. Breen provided information from Pomfret and P. Gauthier provided information from Killingly regarding Property Tax Relief Policies for Public Safety Volunteers that those towns have in place. Mr. Ives commented that it may go into effect on a State-wide basis. He will research.

J. Otto suggested that S. Breen and P. Gauthier speak to the Fire Chiefs of the Pomfret and Killingly Fire Departments to find out if the programs have actually helped to retain people after a few years. He feels that this information would be helpful if this were to be proposed for adoption by the Town because there are costs involved. There was discussion regarding the possibility of the need for paid personnel in the future.

Discussion will continue after information is gathered from the Killingly and Pomfret Fire Chiefs.

S. Brodeur spoke about the Mortlake stipend system which allows for people to be on call from home rather than from the Station. She explained that the State is requiring them to pay unemployment tax even though it is not an employee (it is a stipend). She will draft a letter to the State explaining the situation. There was discussion. R. Ives stated that they will need to come up with a rule regarding paid vs. unpaid because it is a different classification.

L. Brodeur commented that they have paying people to run the ambulance, but they are still dropping calls because nobody wants to go. There was discussion.

b. Retention

P. Gauthier commented that a lot of their people recently finished their EMR/EMT refresher.

6. Financial Reports Discussion

J. Warren returned from the fire call at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Mortlake's Quarterly Report was submitted to J. Otto. Mr. Otto explained that the questions from the Board of Finance were not about the quarterly reports, but rather, they were about looking at year-to-year comparisons for the prospective budget and the last year's expenditures. He stated

that it would be better if both Departments used the same format. Mr. Gauthier stated that he will work at making East Brooklyn's look like Mortlake's.

Mr. Otto asked about Field Services Inventory. Since S. Breen had not returned from the fire call yet, S. Brodeur answered and explained that they had not budgeted for the \$6,300.00 of Professional Fees. J. Otto explained that District expenditures should be separated from Fire Department expenditures. The Town is funding the operation of the Fire Departments. Mr. Ives agreed. There was discussion.

a. Budget Discussion

J. Otto commented that he wanted to ensure that the forms are filled out correctly for the Capital Request for the new vehicle. He was concerned with items being prioritized as it is a difficult year with the State. J. Warren stated that he had spoken with Joe Voccio and to R. Ives and that everything is in order. They are in agreement that it is a good deal. R. Ives commented that everyone on the Capital Committee understands the need for the truck. There was discussion.

There was discussion regarding insurance. R. Ives stated that it was submitted today and that he would forward the latest information that he had received. It is being worked on and he expects to have more information soon.

R. Ives will send a Statement of Values to the insurance company regarding the removal of a hot dog vehicle, for which, Mortlake received a Certificate of Insurance.

Mr. Ives stated that last year's policy has still not been received.

7. Other Business

P. Gauthier asked whether the Board of Fire Commissioners needs to meet over the next couple of months. There may be a need for discussions regarding budget and insurance.

8. Public Comment – None.

9. Next Meeting – May 9, 2018, at East Brooklyn Fire Department.

10. Adjourn

Motion was made by J. Otto to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. (20:23hours). Second by L. Brodeur. Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary