

Town of Brooklyn
Board of Board of Fire Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
26 November 2012
Held at the Mortlake Fire Company

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Attending:

Board Members: D. Lee, Chair, D. Church, F. Ramos, J. Soler, D. Fuss, A. Tanner. P. Gauthier

Others: Randy Daggett - KB Ambulance, Steve Breen – Chief, Mortlake Fire Company, James Warren, Chief, East Brooklyn Fire Department. There were numerous other members of the public in attendance.

Call to order – Meeting called to order at 19:35 hrs.

Reading of the previous Meetings Minutes - Motion made by J. Soler to waive the reading of the previous meeting's minutes. Motion seconded by D. Fuss. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation by KB Ambulance

Randy Daggett, Chief of Service, made a presentation to the Board of Fire Commissioners which stated that KB could provide ambulance service to the Town of Brooklyn for an annual cost of \$10,000. Presentation is attached.

Mr. Daggett stated that he was "not here to change the world," but to respond to a request from a Chief. KB would be able to provide ambulance service to the Town of Brooklyn for \$10,000. The \$10,000 would cover standby events. The fees charged by the service would cover their operating costs. KB would be willing to enter into a contract for "x" number of years at that fee. The KB fee is a substantial difference from the approximately \$73,000 Mortlake requested last year.

KB provides ambulance service for the Town of Killingly. KB presently responds to approximately 2700 calls. That includes 169 Mutual Aid calls. Year to Date 2012, KB has responded to Brooklyn 51 times. A list was provided of 24 calls from April to November.

Mr. Daggett stated KB currently has a paid onsite primary crew and relies on on-call members to respond to second crew calls. They currently have a response time of approximately 3.9 minutes (Time of Alarm to Time on the Air). Mr. Daggett stated that it is an increasing challenge to ensure volunteers respond and it is a regional issue. He stated he believed Mortlake's biggest challenge was getting crews for response between Midnight and 6 am. He stated KB has a crew that stays overnight.

At the conclusion of Mr. Dagget's presentation, he asked if anyone had any questions. A member of the audience began to ask a question. The chair advised that this was not a public forum and unless the Board of Fire Commissioners voted to allow the general public to ask questions, the questions would come from the Board.

Questions from the Board included:

Chairman Lee requested Mr. Dagget to explain how it came to pass that KB was before the Board to make the presentation. Mr. Dagget explained that he received a request for a proposal from the Chief of East Brooklyn during the time of Fire Truck negotiations last spring. Mr. Dagget was further questioned as to whether he knew if Chief Warren had the authority to make such a request. He advised he did not know. Chairman Lee explained that Mr. Gauthier presented a letter to the Board of Fire Commissioners in April that was addressed to Chief Warren from KB Ambulance regarding their proposal. It was agreed that the Board of Fire Commissioners would invite KB to make a proposal.

Chairman Lee inquired as to the average response time to Brooklyn for the calls KB has responded to in town. Mr. Dagget was unable to provide a specific time. However, a cursory review of the times provided by Mr. Dagget revealed the first call on the list showed a time of 23 minutes from Time of Call to Time of Arrival. It was agreed that that average response time to the skilled care provider facilities in the Town of Brooklyn for KB Ambulance was between 13 and 15 minutes, based on the information provided.

Chairman Lee asked Mr. Dagget if he knew the reason by Mortlake started its own ambulance service in the late 1980's. Mr. Dagget advised that he did, due to response times. However, he felt that with his paid staff, those times would be reduced. Chairman Lee further explained that by the late 1980's average ambulance response times from KB's Westcott Road facility were in the neighborhood of 20-25 minutes. Hence, the Morlake Fire Company started to provide Basic Life Support services in an effort to ensure quality EMS was provided to the Town of Brooklyn.

Mr. Soler raised a question of response time and how KB would be able to ensure a minimum response time to points that are some distance away from KB's facility. Mr. Dagget advised that KB's would do their best to minimize those times.

Mr. Ramos asked whether KB could handle the increased volume of calls. Mr. Dagget stated that KB would need to add additional full time staff.

Chairman Lee asked if KB provides ambulance service for any town other than Killingly. Mr. Dagget responded by saying no, but there is a proposal before the Town of Pomfret. Mr. Dagget advised one scenario included building a garage to house an ambulance on the Brooklyn/Pomfret town line in order to minimize response times to both communities.

Mr. Tanner advised that the Board is not ready to make a decision and would get back to KB. Mr. Tanner also suggested that questions from the general public should be allowed. By general concurrence of the Board, questions from the general public were allowed.

Kathy King inquired if Mr. Dagget knew how many times Mortlake responded to Killingly. Mr. Dagget responded that he thought it was not more than 5 or 6 times so far this year. Chairman Lee advised that for 2011, it was 33 times, based on the State's DPH website. Ms King also inquired if KB has had any discussion regarding placement of ambulances in the town of Brooklyn. Mr. Dagget advised that he has had informal discussion with East Brooklyn about housing an ambulance at their station.

Chief Breen was asked for a response. He indicated that the amount of money requested by the Mortlake Ambulance each year has decreased. He advised that Year to Date, Mortlake has responded to Killingly over 30 times. At this point, Mr. Gauthier suggested that Chief Breen be afforded an opportunity to make a formal presentation at the next regular meeting. It was agreed by the board members to make that request.

Chief Warren was asked by the Chair if he had any comments to make regarding the topic as the letter was addressed to him. Chief Warren declined to comment.

Other Business

It was agreed to open the meeting agenda to Other Business

Meeting Dates

Motion made by Mr. Ramos and Seconded by Mr. Soler to hold the regular meetings on the Second Tuesday of the Month for 2013. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8 January 2013.

Board of Finance

A request was made by Mr. Fuss that the Board of Finance is requesting Profit & Loss statements for the Mortlake Ambulance for the past 24 months. The request was noted.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Fuss, seconded by Mr. Ramos.

Meeting adjourned at 20:32 hrs.