

**Board of Fire Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 9, 2016  
7:30pm East Brooklyn Fire Department**

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman, Peter Considine, called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. (19:39 hours).

**Attendance:** Peter Considine, Chairman; Richard Ives; Patrick Gauthier; Jeffrey Otto; Stephen C. Breen.  
Felix Ramos and James Soler were absent.

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

**2. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 12, 2016**

Motion by J. Otto to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2016, as presented. Second by S. Breen. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**3. Public Comment** – None.

**4. Equipment Discussion**

L. Brodeur stated that the Ladder Truck was inspected at Fire Matic and the tires failed. He stated that they are still like new. He wonders if others are out of date also. He has another vendor looking at it and he is hoping that it will pass inspection.

There was discussion regarding the NFPA Regulations which are unclear. The Regulations do not state “shall” or “must.” There is no direct relationship between the insurance company’s requirements and NFPA. All NFPA standards are consensus standards and J. Otto suggested that, if the Commissioners do not like the implication of this portion of 1901, they should begin to raise an objection to it through NFPA. He explained that it is a difficult task and that it takes continuous effort with the Committees, apparatus dealers, tire companies, etc. He feels that L. Brodeur is on the right track with dealing with it the way that he is.

L. Brodeur stated that both hose reels were replaced on ET-190, the valves will be rebuilt, and the lights were also fixed. His budget is off for the first six months due to spending approximately \$8,000.00 (this month) on the maintenance of that truck.

**5. Department Discussion**

J. Warren stated that everything is going well.

L. Brodeur stated that they could use about 15 more members. Discussion ensued regarding recruitment and what they can do or offer to get people of varying ages (especially young people) interested in becoming involved. There was discussion regarding hiring a professional to do marketing. The Commissioners agreed.

Suggestions:

- An appreciation night for the young members.

- They be given a reward for accomplishing each level (e.g. new fire gear when Fire 1 is completed, etc.)
- East Brooklyn could put a sign out as Mortlake did.

Discussion continued. It was suggested that there should be officers that learn to work with a group of young people. There was discussion of the need for a more mature age group of people also (including retirees) although it is difficult with work and busy, family responsibilities.

Heath Kesling stated that, in East Brooklyn, they have been using the I Am Responding Program where you can sign up for a particular shift each week.

It was decided that discussion should continue at the next meeting. The Commissioners need to decide what they want the message to be before a consultant is hired.

## **6. Financial Reports Discussion**

P. Gauthier submitted the quarterly report for East Brooklyn. He also submitted a memo from East Brooklyn regarding the Chart of Accounts. L. Brodeur turned his quarterly report in to the Board of Finance last month.

J. Otto will speak with the Finance Director next week regarding the customization of the Chart of Accounts.

## **7. Other Business**

J. Otto provided copies of the fire report. There was discussion regarding false alarms and whether repeat offenders (due to maintenance issues) should be fined (Ordinance regarding nuisance alarms). It should be determined whether there is a problem.

## **8. Public Comment**

P. Gauthier stated that the drainage pad work in front of the building (East Brooklyn) is expected to be done with a week.

L. Brodeur stated that there is a problem putting in two propane tanks for the generator in back of the Library (off the parking lot). It is in the historic district, so they need to be buried. R. Ives will investigate if this is necessary.

## **9. Next Meeting – December 14, 2016 at Mortlake Fire Department**

## **10. Adjourn**

Motion by S. Breen to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. (20:19 hours). Second by R. Ives. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Everyone was wished a Happy Thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault  
Recording Secretary