

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners

**DRAFT** -- Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2016

Thompsonville Fire Station, 35 N. Main Street, Enfield, CT

**1. Call to Order:** by Chairperson Reidy at 7:16 pm.

**2. Roll Call:** present was Chairperson Comm. Reidy, Comm. Perry, Comm. Brouillette, Comm. Crowley, and Comm. Gaskell. Also present was Acting Chief Provencher.

**3. Secretary / Treasurer's Report:**

Comm. Brouillette read the balance of all accounts: Fire Marshal's Fees is \$36,468.83, Fire Hydrants Maintenance is \$4,334.97, Bridge Fund is \$150,323.37, 7799 Operating Account is \$23,160.58, IT Maintenance/Dispatch is \$73,377.24, New Hires Expenses is \$13,995.55, Municipal Reserve is \$189,307.38, Apparatus Replacement Fund is \$1,001.28, Municipal Investment Account is \$613,489.49, Debt Service Account is \$41,267.90, Contingency Fund is \$66,366.39, LT Building Maintenance Fund is \$3,716.16, Sick Time Retiree Payout is \$81,156.52, and Vacation Time Retiree Payout is \$24,590.94.

Comm. Reidy asked about the IT maintenance invoice.

**4. Commissioners' Communications:**

Comm. Gaskell said he's reached out 3 times to the Gray's Club about the adjoining properties. I have not heard back from them. Comm. Reidy explained the 2 properties to Comm. Crowley. Comm. Gaskell said we would like to sell them because of the liability.

**5. Chief's Report:**

Acting Chief Provencher said the Enfield Dog Park Committee donated \$700 towards the purchase of an additional thermal imaging camera. The cost of the camera is approximately \$1,200.

Acting Chief Provencher said t-shirts were made to sell to help raise money to remove the bell from the old fire station. The goal is to raise enough funds to remove the bell and then continuing fundraising to establish a memorial in front of the station. T-shirts were sold during the Fourth of July celebration weekend. We raised about \$3,400 through t-shirts sales and donations. The Enfield Square just donated \$300.

Acting Chief Provencher said firefighter Richardson has completed the Fire Marshal training school. I would like to have him sworn in as a deputy Fire Marshal for the

department. Acting Chief Provencher asked who the Board's Clerk is. The Clerk can administer the oath. Acting Chief Provencher said he would like to be sworn in as well.

Acting Chief Provencher said there have been 3 major incidents in the district in the last month. Capt. Pliszka, firefighter O'Brien, firefighter Richardson, and firefighter Everest responded to a kitchen fire on Washington Ave. Capt. Pliszka, firefighter Miarecki, firefighter Richardson, and firefighter Piacentini responded to a fatal bedroom fire on Garden Street. Capt. Flanagan, firefighter Miarecki, firefighter M. Provencher, and firefighter Barone responded to a fatal motorcycle accident on Highway 91. A State police officer who was on the scene complimented those members for the skills and professionalism they showed during the incident. Acting Chief Provencher commented on a job well done by all.

Acting Chief Provencher said the hiring process has been started. The application, job posting, and job requirements list have been finalized and will be reviewed by the district's labor attorney. The State of CT will create and administer the written exam. A panel of officers from throughout the state will conduct the oral interview. Currently there is one position available. A list of applicants will be retained in case another opening becomes available. The tentative exam date is September 9, 2016. The oral interview will follow shortly after.

Comm. Gaskell asked about the number of deputy Fire Marshals the department has.

Comm. Reidy asked about the cage for the truck.

## **6. Public Communications: 10 Minute Q & A:**

Erline Provencher, 94 S. River St., asked about the money from t-shirt sales.

Mark Magistri, 34 Parker St., asked for copies of the Treasurer's report to be available at meetings.

Jeff Cross, 1116 Enfield St., said yesterday I made a FOI request about the fund balances. It was surprising that the accountants said the district's fund balances were so low. What are the fund balances and what is each fund used for? I was concerned because I haven't heard it discussed at previous commission meetings. Were these funds used for other purposes in the past?

Mr. Cross said now that the fiscal year is over, I hope we don't have to wait a long time before the auditor's report comes out. What are the balances of each expense line for FY 15-16? During the budget process, it was estimated that we would carry over \$400,000 into this fiscal year. How much did we actually carry over?

Mr. Cross said the FY 17-18 budget will be a challenge because there will be a new union contract. In my opinion this contract will make or break the financials for the

district. There should be a contract committee made up of taxpayers to give their input on the district's position. There isn't a lot of time to prepare before negotiations start. I think we have a position set or at least ideas from the taxpayers before the new contract comes up. I am concerned because the district kept the tax rate the same when people were anticipating a lower mil rate.

Mr. Cross asked if there is time dedicated for Fire Marshal inspections. We just implemented a Fire Marshal ordinance. I am sure there are others about such things as the number of residents and the number of fire alarms within a structure. It is obvious that the efforts on the fire hydrants really paid off. I am wondering if we need to start pushing about residency ordinances. The district could collect fines for this.

Mr. Cross asked about the Fire Marshal ordinance fees.

Steve Cogtella, 2 S. River St., asked about the \$500 stipend in the union contract.

Mr. Cogtella asked about insurance and pension contributions while an employee is out on disability.

Mark Magistri, 34 Parker St, asked what the cost to remove the bell is.

Mr. Magistri asked is it required by law to have the fire department presence at the Fourth of July Celebration because of the fireworks. If it is a law then how come Our Lady of Mount Carmel doesn't have our department there during their festival?

Mr. Magistri said any anticipation of a tax rate reduction was misplaced. Last year I gave an inclination there might be a reduction. That was only if the mil rate did not change.

Mr. Magistri asked about a pay increase for being a deputy Fire Marshal.

Steve Cogtella, 2 S. River St. asked is there a strategy in place to effectively negotiate with the Union to try to keep the mil rate at or below what it currently is.

Jeff Cross, 1116 Enfield St., asked when out on Workers' Comp is the amount the district pays to make up an employee's gross pay taxable. If it is taxable, does that amount show as a contribution to the time earned on the pension?

## **7. Commissioner and Administration general discussions:**

Comm. Reidy said she would like to contact the attorney regarding an ethics committee, a negotiations committee, and collecting PILOT fees from Enfield Housing Authority.

**MOTION to go to the attorney for the negotiation committee, the PILOT funds, and the ethics committee** made by Comm. Reidy, seconded by Comm. Gaskell. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passes 5-0.

Comm. Crowley complimented the design of the t-shirts and the effort put into selling them. Comm. Crowley also complimented the firefighters for giving tours of the station. Comm. Perry agreed.

#### **8. Public Communications: 10 Minute Q & A:**

Erline Provencher, 94 S. River St. said we need to bring people back to the fire station because people have a bad taste towards it. The more public relations we have the better it will be for us.

Jeff Cross, 1116 Enfield St., said he was thrilled to hear about the firefighter involvement during the Fourth of July weekend. That is exactly the type of PR we need.

Erline Provencher, 94 S. River St., asked about the patch on the t-shirts.

Jeff Cross, 1116 Enfield St., asked about designing more t-shirts to sell to the public.

**9. Approval of Minutes from January 27 special meeting, February 18 public hearing, February 19 special meeting, March 1 special meeting, March 9 regular meeting, March 16 district meeting, March 17 special meeting, March 21 special meeting, March 30 special meeting, April 4 district meeting, April 4 special meeting, April 5 special meeting, April 11 special meeting, April 12 special meeting, April 13 special meeting, April 20 public hearing, April 22 special meeting, May 4 district meeting, May 4 annual meeting, May 11 regular meeting, May 23 special meeting, June 13 special meeting, and June 28 special meeting:**

**MOTION to table March 1 special meeting indefinitely** made by Comm. Reidy, seconded by Comm. Gaskell. Discussion: Comm. Reidy said there are not enough Commissioners to vote on it. Roll Call- Motion passes 5-0.

**MOTION to approve January 27 special meeting, February 18 public hearing, February 19 special meeting, March 9 regular meeting, March 16 district meeting, March 17 special meeting, March 21 special meeting, April 4 district meeting, April 4 special meeting, April 11 special meeting, and May 4 annual meeting minutes** made by Comm. Reidy, seconded by Comm. Gaskell. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passes 3-0 with Comm. Crowley and Comm. Perry abstaining.

**MOTION to approve May 4 district meeting, May 23 special meeting, and June 28 special meeting minutes** made by Comm. Reidy, seconded by Comm. Gaskell. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passes 5-0.

**MOTION to approve May 11 regular meeting and June 13 special meeting minutes** made by Comm. Reidy, seconded by Comm. Brouillette. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passes 4-0 with Comm. Crowley abstaining.

Comm. Reidy said the Board will vote on March 30 special meeting, April 5 special meeting, and April 12 special meeting minutes at the next meeting.

**10. Discussion and Approval of Invoices/Bills:**

Commissioners reviewed, discussed and approved checks for invoices/bills.

**11. Anticipated Executive Session: a) Personnel Issues, b) Pending Claims and Litigation CGS 7433c Heart and Hypertension Claims, c) Discussion of Pending Claims and Litigation:**

**MOTION to enter into Executive Session** made by Comm. Crowley, seconded by Comm. Reidy. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passes 5-0. All Commissioners present and Acting Chief Provencher entered into Executive Session at 8:18 pm.

**12. Possible Action regarding Executive Session:**

Returned from Executive Session at 9:11 pm. No action taken.

**13. Adjourn:**

**MOTION to adjourn** made by Comm. Gaskell, seconded by Comm. Reidy. All in favor by ayes at 9:12 pm.

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