

Regular Meeting of the
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners

DRAFT -- Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2020
Thompsonville Fire Station, 35 N. Main Street, Enfield, CT

1. Call to Order: by Comm. DuFour at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll Call: present were Comm. DuFour, Comm. Dodd, Comm. Pliszka, and Comm. Perry. Absent was Comm. Reidy. Also present were District Attorney Carl Landolina, Lindsey Allard and Madison St. John from Beirne Wealth Consulting Services, Chief Deskis and Dept. Secretary Steneri.

3. Executive Session: Pending Claims and Litigation JPMCC 2006-LDP7 Centro Enfield, LLC v. Town of Enfield, et al HHB-CV17-6038340-S and Enfield Square Realty, LLC v. Town of Enfield, et al HHB-CV-19-6054126-S:

MOTION to enter Executive Session made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Dodd. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0. All Commissioners present, Atty. Landolina, and Chief Deskis entered Executive Session at 7:00 pm.

Returned from Executive Session at 7:29 pm.

4. Possible Action regarding Executive Session:

MOTION to approve a transfer of \$283,256.64 from the Municipal Investment account to the Legal account and schedule a Special District meeting on February 4, 2020 at 6:00 pm made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Dodd. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

5. Pension Update by Beirne Wealth Consulting Services, LLC: a) Pension Update, b) 457 Deferred Compensation Plan:

Pension Update: Ms. Allard wished everyone a happy New Year and thanked the Board for having Beirne Wealth attend the meeting.

Ms. Allard said she will talk about what has transpired since the meeting in November. The November 2019 report was emailed because there was no December meeting. Ms. Allard explained the recent investment actions that have occurred since the last meeting: \$119,700.81 was sent to PenChecks to distribute the first quarter pension payments on December 11th. On December 30th, \$354,988.84 was invested in fixed income structure.

Ms. Allard said Milliman has sent out the benefit statements.

Ms. Allard said the portfolio is fully invested at this time. Ms. Allard explained different pages of the performance report as of December 31, 2019.

Comm. Dodd said everything has been done. Ms. Allard said Golub Capital will pull more money but that is on the administrative side. Comm. Dodd suggested having Beirne Wealth attend meetings quarterly and Ms. Allard can provide a summary each month to me. I can then give a report based on that summary. The rest of the Board agreed. Ms. Dodd said the next meeting Beirne Wealth would attend is in April. Ms. Allard said if anything were to occur in the market within a quarter, Beirne Wealth would contact the Board.

Comm. Pliszka asked about the status of the actuarial report. Ms. Allard said Milliman should have sent it with the benefit statements. Chief Deskis said we only received the benefit statements. Ms. Allard said she will check with Milliman tomorrow. Comm. Pliszka asked if Ms. Allard had looked at the report. Ms. Allard said she has not received it yet. Milliman would send it to the District first and Beirne Wealth would receive a copy.

457 Deferred Compensation Plan: Ms. Allard said we have been working with Chief Deskis to remove the current signor for the plan. Chief Deskis said he is hard to get a hold of. Comm. Perry suggested contacting his brother. Chief Deskis said we need him to have a conference call with Prudential. Ms. Allard said it will be easy once we have that phone call with Prudential. Beirne Wealth will then sign on as advisors. We just need him on the phone to authorize that and then choose one or two new trustees.

Comm. Pliszka said how can we fix the problem we are in right now. Ms. Allard said we need to get him on the phone with Prudential because Prudential will not speak with us. Comm. Pliszka said I understand. How can we prevent this from happening again? Can we have several trustees? Ms. Allard said two would probably be good. Our firm plans on managing the plan for the long-term so we would update that information immediately. Comm. Pliszka said our trouble is getting a hold of the signor. Ms. Allard said we can probably call Prudential with the Chief and explain the situation to them. We can see what they can do on their side. Comm. Dodd asked is he not returning your phone calls. Chief Deskis said he is not.

Comm. Pliszka asked what the next step is if we cannot get him on the phone. Ms. Allard said we would ask Prudential what their next steps are. Beirne Wealth would sign on advisor, select providers, and then move everything over to that platform. In the meantime, Beirne Wealth can hold education sessions with the employees and discuss their individual accounts.

Comm. Pliszka asked can the Board take a vote to override the current trustee. Ms. Allard said we would need to ask Prudential. I am sure they have a protocol. Comm. DuFour said he will try contacting him tomorrow. The Board thanked Ms. Allard and Ms. St. John for attending the meeting.

6. Chief's Report:

Chief Deskis said the department responded to a total of 2,152 emergency incidents in 2019 which is an increase from 2018's total of 2,017.

Chief Deskis said the Town of Enfield's Fire Chiefs and Lee Erdmann have been working on a consolidation study. The consolidation plan will take some time if it moves forward. There have been signs on people's lawns and politicians getting involved. The experts that know the profession should conduct the process. Comm. DuFour said there really isn't a plan. Comm. Perry said the Fire Chiefs and firefighters need to get together and develop a plan. Then that plan will be presented. Comm. DuFour said the meeting just was about a lot of information. Chief Deskis said there is no date yet. Comm. DuFour said it was mentioned several times at the meeting about having volunteers. Chief Deskis said volunteers are allowed in this department. The problem is paying for bunker gear and training for these volunteers. Comm. Perry said consolidating means our actual district won't even exist.

Chief Deskis said the Town Manager and Council member Sferrazza attended the last Fire Chief's meeting. The fire protection tax on the water mains was mentioned. There will be another meeting in February. The tax could be shifted from the Town to the fire district because it involves fire protection. The mains include people's drinking water, shower water, any kind of water usage. The district should not be responsible for other people's water.

Chief Deskis said the Captain's exam has been conducted and the oral interviews will be on January 23rd. Firefighter interviews were completed last week. Chief interviews will be held soon.

Chief Deskis said injuries have been a contributor to the recent increase in overtime in the last few months. One member will be on active duty starting January 25th. He will be gone for at least 265 days. One member will be returning from an injury in a couple of days. Another member returning from injury will be going back out in February.

Chief Deskis said all the members will be enrolled in direct deposit soon. The members can go online and view their pay stubs. This will save some money in payroll fees.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Comm. Dodd said our cash accounts total \$3.4 million. The current total assets are \$14.6 million. The total liabilities are \$16.6 million. The total liabilities and equity are \$14,649,352. The total revenue for December 2019 was \$2,895 and the total expenses was \$207,183. That is always going to be obscure because most of our revenue comes in August. For the month of December, our revenue is under budget by \$2,203 and our expenses are under budget by \$26,876. For the year our revenue is under budget by \$40,000. This will primarily come from firewatch and Fire Marshal ordinance fees. Our expenses are under budget by \$1,392,000 which will primarily

come from employees' salaries and benefits. We are halfway through our budget year and our numbers are on target.

8. Public Communications:

None.

9. Commissioners' Communications:

None.

10. Old Business: a) Part-Time District CPA, b) Purchase of SCBA units:

Part-Time District CPA: Chief Deskis said we met with a couple CPAs. One firm cost \$300 per hour. The other firm gave an estimate of roughly \$5,800 a year. Comm. Dodd asked do you have any recommendations. Chief Deskis said the firm that cost \$5,800 is located in town. We met with them for about an hour and they seemed very nice. Dept. Secy. Steneri said the cost could go down depending on how much time they need to spend reviewing the finances. Comm. Perry asked what is the name of the firm. Chief Deskis said Gazis & Associates, Inc. Comm. Dodd said we are primarily looking for someone to review our financials to see if there is anything out of the ordinary and help us with our budget. Comm. DuFour asked what line item is the money coming out of. Chief Deskis said we could have them look at the financials every other month. Comm. Perry said they can spend one month looking at the financials and then help with the budget. Dept. Secy. Steneri said we budgeted \$14,000 for our auditors. Comm. Dodd said that is where the money would come from. I say go ahead and set up a meeting with them. The rest of the Board agreed.

Purchase of SCBA units: Chief Deskis said we had discussed purchasing new SBCA units at the last meeting. The leasing company has 3 to 7 year loans with pretty reasonable rates. I am not sure where we stand now with the Enfield Square re-evaluation. Comm. Dodd asked how many units did we want to get. Chief Deskis said 22. Comm. Dodd asked how much does it cost for 22 units. Chief Deskis said \$213,725. Comm. Perry said we would have to hold a meeting because it is a loan. Chief Deskis said it would have to be voted on. Comm. Perry said right now we are having a meeting about the Square. Comm. Dodd asked can we vote on both at the same meeting. Comm. Pliszka said if we vote on both, we are talking about spending half a million dollars. Comm. Dodd asked do we have to get 22. Chief Deskis said we don't want to piece it out. Comm. Pliszka said it is more dangerous because you are mixing units. Chief Deskis said we should probably wait another year. Comm. Pliszka said we have 3 years left on our current units. We only asked for half that amount when we applied for a grant. It was rejected because we didn't show a need for them. If we show a need for all 22 units then we might be awarded the grant. Comm. DuFour asked are they all expiring at the same time. Comm. Pliszka said yes.

11. New Business: a) Replacement Process for Staff Vehicles, b) Sale of Old Air Compressor:

Replacement Process for Staff Vehicles: Chief Deskis said he is looking at the future right now. I wanted to start replacing at least one vehicle a year. Comm. Pliszka said we need to start replacing things but we need to know how much money we have carrying over. That is an avenue we can use to purchase things. Chief Deskis said I understand with everything going on that we can't do this right now. I just didn't want to have to replace everything all at once. Comm. DuFour said I don't know how badly we need a new vehicle but North Thompsonville is going to be selling one of theirs. Chief Deskis said we will wait.

Sale of Old Air Compressor: Chief Deskis said he has set up an account with the State Surplus auction. I wanted to post the sale of the old air compressor on the auction website. What is the minimum price I should sell it for? Comm. DuFour said probably a couple thousand dollars. Comm. Dodd said whatever you think you can get for it. You are the expert. Comm. Pliszka said we will take what we can get for it. Right now, it is a huge weight on the truck floor. Comm. DuFour asked are you going to sell the other stuff that is there. Chief Deskis said yes.

12. Approval of Minutes from November 20 regular meeting:

MOTION to accept the minutes of the November 20 regular meeting made by Comm. Perry, seconded by Comm. Dodd. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 3-0 with Comm. DuFour abstaining.

13. Discussion and Approval of Invoices/Bills:

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

14. 2020-2021 FY Budget Workshop:

Comm. DuFour said he would like to have the CPAs look at the financials and budget before the Board works on it. Comm. DuFour asked Chief Deskis if he had anything to discuss about the budget. Chief Deskis said he did not.

15. Adjourn:

MOTION to adjourn made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Perry. All in favor by ayes at 8:15 pm.