

BOLTON FIRE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

BOLTON FIRE HOUSE – 7:00 P.M. and Via Zoom

Fire Commission Chairman John Morianos convened the Bolton Fire Commission meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the Bolton Fire House.

Commission members present were John Morianos, Chris Moquin, Robert Langton and Elizabeth Malone. Also present was Chief Bruce Dixon, Deputy Fire Marshal Bill Call and Fire Marshal James Rupert. Danny Moquin was absent.

Other Members in-Person: Rodney Fournier, Robert Morra, Peter Morra, James Quish and Matthew Perrera.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CORRESPONDENCE – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion to approve the December 11, 2023 meeting minutes (CM/RL) VU.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – None

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF –

- 56 calls since the last meeting including 2 motor vehicle accidents, trees on wires, 6 water calls, 1 fire alarm at Georgina's Restaurant, a log fire and 1 snowstorm standby.
- ET134 is now in-house, Firematic training completed by 15 members, herculean work done in the afternoon by members to get this new fire truck ready to go into service.
- Training area - Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Grant, the lumber has arrived and is being assembled into the roof, window, maze prop for firefighting training. The training area is now almost complete with a paved lot, telephone poles with a variety of wiring setups, guard rails and a fire hydrant system to flow water.
- Budget - we are on track with a repair to Recue 134 that could affect the end of year budget. Rescue 134 had to be towed to Stewart Stevenson in Middletown, Atlantic Detroit and have the EGR assembly replaced. Truck 134 had a battery sulfate and resulted in replacing all six batteries for \$995. Total repairs for the month were \$ 10,000.00.
- To date the BVFD has spent 19% of our allotted budget. Large expenses upcoming are apparatus DOT, pump tests and annual inspections. Aerial inspection is due this year. SCBA pack and compressor air quality tests, member SCBA mask fit testing, meter calibrations, hose and ladder testing, member physicals, are all scheduled to be done this spring.

- This next weekend the BVFD will be holding an EMT recertification class for those members that have to recertify their license this year. We have a new EMT, Corey Christians and two other members getting close to completing the class. Three members have indicated that they want to take Firefighter 2 training this spring. Lt. Vincent just completed the Aerial Operator Certification. We are planning a pump operator class and another Q driving class in-house.
- The BVFD is putting on an American Heart Association “Heartsaver CPR and AED Course” on February 17, 2024. This course is open to the public.
- 2024-2025 Budget has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

#### FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT –

Jim Rupert announced that this would be the last meeting he would attend as the Fire Marshal. He reported that interviews have been conducted for the Fire Marshal and the Deputy Fire Marshal. He asked the Fire Commission to endorse the recommendation of Bill Call as Fire Marshal and James Quish as Deputy Fire Marshal. He also mentioned that both men are more than qualified.

Motion for the Fire Commission to approve the recommendation from the administrators to appoint William Call as Fire Marshal and James Quish as Deputy Fire Marshal (EM/RL VU.)

John Morianos thanked James Rupert for his time and service as Fire Marshal. He presented J. Rupert with a plaque.

#### DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL’S REPORT

Activities:

- 1- 1 Senior Knox Box installed
- 2- Update ESO inspections
- 3- Attended CRFMA in Rocky Hill
- 4- CT Fire Marshals training with fire marshal James Rupert
- 5- BVFD call back at Hop River Road
- 6- Fire Prevention poster duties
- 7- Bolton Center School fire alarm witness
- 8- Open burn complaint with building permit follow up

#### **Inspections since last meeting:**

- 1- Notch Road Apartments yearly inspections completed
- 2- Shell Station new tank installations with building official four times
- 3- Loomis Road apartments inspection with building official
- 4- Dollar General seasonal egress inspection
- 5- Georgina’s new construction inspection with building official
- 6- Sunset Road apartments yearly inspection 100% complete
- 7- 2 burn permits with inspection

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Chief Dixon discussed the 24-25 budget and different options for the future of the BVFD. He mentioned surrounding town with regard to salary, positions, number of calls, time of calls, durations of calls, etc. He presented several options regarding compensation and ways to retain current volunteers. This will be discussed at the budget meeting with the Board of Selectmen tomorrow evening.

R. Morra mentioned that this has been discussed with previous boards of selectmen. He suggested that this could possibly be part of the 5 years plan. We need to fund a master plan. We need change and we need it fast. J. Rupert agreed with R. Morra and stated that we need to start the dialogue with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and the Fire Commission.

J. Morianos mentioned that things have changed over the years. Members need certifications and are not compensated when attending training sessions. The engineers spend numerous hours washing, waxing and maintaining the vehicles and are not compensated.

C. Moquin stated that we need to take care of the volunteers that we currently have to retain them and prevent them from leaving the BVFD. An option for the master plan could be to increase the proficiency fund.

R. Langton expressed concern that there are not enough volunteers to handle the calls during the day. His concerned that in the future there may not be an EMT at a call. For the approximate 5,000 residence of Bolton we need to ensure the safety of all.

J. Morianos thanked everyone for their input and support for this very important imitative.

Next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm (JM/RL) VU

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet K. Assard*

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Board Clerk