

BOLTON FIRE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 22, 2024

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

Fire Commission Chairman John Morianos convened the Bolton Fire Commission meeting at 7:10 P.M. at the Bolton Fire House.

Commission members present was Robert Langton, Chris Moquin, Danny Moquin and Elizabeth Malone. Also present was Fire Marshall Bill Call and Chief Bruce Dixon.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CORRESPONDENCE – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion to approve the June 24, 2024 meeting minutes (RL/DM) VU.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – Bills that were paid in July were circulated.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF –

- 56 emergency calls, 313 calls year to date
- 3 motor vehicle accidents, 8 tree/wires down, overdose on top of Bolton Notch with UTV from Vernon fire department and mutual aid to several towns to assist them at emergency calls.
- Budget: 2023 – 2024 has been completed with 1.2 % unspent. This was a challenging year for the fact that \$ 5,000 was taken from our budget by the selectmen to complete payment on the new Engine Tank 134, and there were \$ 27,000 in major vehicle repairs that was not expected. The Town Administrator offered to look to see what monies he could find in other budgets at the end of the fiscal year to help the Fire Commission. Chief Dixon went into the Fire Commission remaining budget categories and wrote a number of transfers within the budget to pay for all expenses. In doing so, medical supplies, turnout gear and training were all cut back to accomplish this.
- In the next fiscal year 2024 – 2025, we will have expenses of ten tires for the ladder truck, fuel tank replacement and potentially expenses not divulged yet from the new Federal OSHA mandates that all fire departments across the country will have to adhere to. More details to follow.
- Training: We have one member in an EMT class, two members taking the Firefighter 1 class and two members taking the Firefighter 2 class. One member is signed up for the Fire Instructor class.
- Our training roof and door prop building is nearing completion. This is being accomplished through the Greater Hartford/Bolton for Giving Grant that we received and labor by several of our talented members. We have also worked with a local wrecker company to furnish us with several cars to practice stabilization, extrication with the Jaws of Life, emergency medical drills, and additionally practice firefighting skills on these.

- The Bolton Volunteer Fire Department is planning to hold an Open House/Recruitment event in early October at the firehouse.
- Assistant Chief Michael Eremita has stepped down from his Chief's position, looking to assist with special detail projects from the Chief Dixon and respond to the larger, more complex emergency calls. Chief Eremita has over 55 years of experience in the fire service as a truly dedicated leader.

Robert Langton asked if we will come under budget at the end of June of next year. With inflation this will be a challenge. Chief Dixon replied yes.

John Morianos mentioned that we have many unanticipated expenses and we also have major catastrophic things that can go wrong and could negatively impact the budget.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT –

- Knox Lock MTS property
- Knox Box install Hebron Road
- Vacation for one week
- 890 Boston Turnpike duties
- Deputy James Quish handles a call at Bolton High School for a water problem

Inspections since last meeting:

- Re-inspect apartments at 21 Clark Road
- Tank removal at Saint Maurice Church

DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Chief Dixon discussed the upgrades to the radios. They will now have more frequencies for mutual aid. John asked how many more will be purchased. Chief Dixon replied 8-10 more radios. This will help with the safety of the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department members.

No meeting scheduled for August.

Next meeting scheduled for September 23, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm (RL/CM) VU

Respectfully submitted,

Janet K. Assard

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Board Clerk

