

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 23, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

Fire Department Headquarters

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Robert Massey, Jr., Commissioners Ahern, LaCroix, Riccio, Conklin and Fox. Also present was Chief Mahoney and Assistant Chief Brian Koczak.

Personnel – Commissioner Massey reported that there is one vacancy due to a recent retirement. The 16 new hires have started. Currently interviewing for part time EMTs and Paramedics. Station 9 is staffed with Medic 1 and staffed with 2 crew members and Engine 9 has 3 crew members. Chief Mahoney reported that there was a kitchen fire at a condominium unit located on Limewood Avenue and due to the recent staffing of Station 9 crews were able to arrive in less than 4 minutes and the fire was extinguished.

Finance – Commissioner Riccio reported that there are no transfers at this time. The maintenance and medical supply accounts are over 70% spent. Mostly due to the increase in prices for supplies and call volume is up. The Chief is watching the accounts closely.

Training – Commissioner Ahern reported that the paramedics are completing the mandatory paramedic skills review. Paramedics ill also need to attend an Advance Medical Life Support course, the course is a two-day certification and covers 16 hours of required national registry education hours. The department will be conducting Ice rescue and forcible entry refresher training this month. Annual OSHA training and annual physicals are on-going and must be completed by the March.

Apparatus – Commissioner LaCroix reported that 69 work orders have been completed as of January 23. There are 29 pending work orders and 27 repairs in progress. Truck 1 is out of service, the aerial needs to be rebuilt, the estimated cost is \$12,000. Engine 2 is out of service and with a bad head gasket, the estimated cost is \$10,000. Engine 1 has a fuel tank leak that is being repaired inhouse. The new ambulance is on order and expected May 2025. The new Engine 1 is expected December 2025 and the new Engine 9 is estimated to be delivered in 3 years. All the regulatory inspections on large apparatus have been completed. Medic 2 remount on chassis has been completed and is in service. Tac 6 was fitted with the existing plow and sander for winter operations.

Buildings – Commissioner Conklin reported that the police department has moved the patrol division into the building. Work has begun in the community room to accommodate administrative staff, detective division and clerical staff. The temporary solution to station alerting at station 9 has been installed, funding for a permanent solution will be included in a capital needs request.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that fiscal year to date ambulance revenue is \$1,407,098.00. Will exceed budget target. Continue to receive positive feedback. Yale recognized several EMTs in their newsletter. There have been 3,150 EMS incident reports from July 1 to January 22, with 2,343 patient transports to area hospitals.

Pension – Chief Mahoney advised the commission that another Commissioner needs to be added to the Volunteer Pension Committee. The Committee requires two commission members. Motion made by Commissioner Fox to add an appointment to the Volunteer Pension Committee to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Conklin. Vote unanimous. Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to approve the appointment of Commissioner Ahern to the Pension Committee to fill a vacancy left by Commission Clem. Seconded by Commissioner Conklin. Vote unanimous.

Chief's Report – The Chief reported that they are very busy. 4,026 calls for service from July 1 to January 22, averaging 19.5 calls per day. Mondays are the busiest days. The chiefs are discussing possibly adding a part time ambulance from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to cover the busiest time of the day. Since the September report, the department has responded to 5 structure fires. Two of these incidences resulted in fatalities. The Fire Marshal's Office is collaborating with the Red Cross and East Shore District Health Department to begin fire safely campaign withing the Highland Bluff complex to offer voluntary inspections, installation of smoke alarms and provide fire safety education. The ability to respond with the appropriate resources kept the fire damage to a minimum. At four out of the five fires the first engine arrived on scene within four minutes of dispatch meeting our goal and validating the deployment plan. The fifth fire occurred on Flat Rock Road and took more than 10 minutes to arrive due to the travel distance. Further highlighting the need for a staffed station on Acorn Road.

Assistant Chief's Report – Chief Koczak reported that they are in the process of interviewing EMT's and Paramedics. Working out details with the 16 new hires with Human Resources.

Fire Mashal's Office submitted a report. The Fire Marshal's Office continues to be very busy. Highlights included: 727 systems have been tracked suing the Brycer Compliance Software program. Work is ongoing with private fire hydrants. There is a vacant inspection position.

Old Business – Commissioner Massey inquired regarding the responsibility of wear and tear such as flooring concerning the additional staffing of the police department utilizing areas of Fire Headquarters. It was suggested that a memo is prepared.

New Business – Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to approve a request from M.P. Rice Hose Co. 2 to participate in the Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner LaCroix. Vote unanimous.

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Commissioner Riccio mentioned the needs of the department and the continued growth around town. The department/commission is trying to remain fiscally responsible however, the number of apartments and increased buildings is driving the needs to increase within the department to maintain a high level of service. It is also driving increased needs of the Police Department.

Motion made by Commissioner Riccio to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. seconded by Commissioner Fox. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Trista Milici  
Clerk

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Apparatus – Commissioner LaCroix reported that all units are in service and they are continuing with ongoing daily maintenance.

EMS – Commissioner Fox reported that the ambulance revenue is currently at \$990,000 roughly only a third into the fiscal year.

Buildings – no report

Pensions and Communications – No report.

Chief's Report – Chief Mahoney reported that the department has been extremely busy.

Assistant Chief's report – Assistant Chief Koczak reported that he is working closely on grants and onboarding the new EMS hires. He expressed his gratitude to the training staff for their assistance with the new EMS new hires.

New Business:

Motion made by Commissioner Lacroix to adopt the 22025 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Conklin. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Ahern to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Conklin. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk