

Regular Meeting of the
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners

DRAFT -- Meeting Minutes – June 17, 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 (via conference call) were Comm. DuFour, Comm. Pliszka, and Comm. Bouthiette. Also present (via conference call) were Chief Deskis, and Dept. Secretary Steneri. Absent were Comm. Perry and Comm. Dodd.

3. Chief's Report:

Chief Deskis said the department has returned to normal response mode due to the decrease in hospitalizations and number of positive cases. The health screenings before each shift are still in place. Given everything that is going on in the country right now, COVID-19 is still present. A new SOP has been put out for the coronavirus. There is a meeting scheduled with the Union and the Labor Board to discuss what to do if the virus comes back in the fall.

Chief Deskis said there is one candidate for the position of Training Officer. An interview will be held next week. If the candidate does well, he will be promoted as soon as the funds for the next budget year are available. I have not received an answer from the Town regarding when we will receive our money.

Chief Deskis said there has been a change in the dispatch fees which I have emailed to the Board. The fees are now \$20,317. Last year, the fees were \$19,000. There wasn't an explanation from the Finance Department as to how those fees were calculated. Some years the dispatch fees were not paid so the Town is making up the difference. I want to have a meeting with the Town Manager to discuss the fee calculations and to ask why the EMS calls are included in our fees. The department is doing the Town a favor because we are not recuperating any money from those EMS calls. I am going to ask that we use \$8,917 from the contingency fund because we only budgeted \$11,400 for the year. The Town Council does not understand what a big asset this department is. It would be a shame if we could no longer respond to EMS calls because of the fees.

Chief Deskis said Prudential sent the District an invoice for a charge when the pension was switched over to Beirne Wealth. In the past, there has been an issue of some fees not being paid. The invoice is for \$7,625 which will have to come out of the contingency fund as well.

Chief Deskis said we also received an invoice for \$4,850 from Milliman for actuarial services during the switch over. That will have to come out of the contingency fund as well since it was not budgeted for.

Chief Deskis said he has been working on the insurance rates. The rates are going to be lowered by \$17,600. Insurance for the boat costs \$12,000. You can buy a brand new boat for that amount in a couple of years. However, it could cost \$15,000 to repair the motor. I will continue to work on trying to reduce it further. We are not required by the state to have insurance but it is a good thing to have.

Chief Deskis said the department is keeping track of all the costs for the apparatus in the Target Solutions program.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Comm. DuFour said Comm. Dodd sent him a treasurer's report to read since she could not attend tonight. The report says: "Treasurer's report for meeting June 17, 2020 financials as of May 31, 2020. Balance sheet: the cash accounts total \$2,058,889. Total liabilities and equity: \$13,226,264. Profit and loss revenue and expenses for May 2020: revenue was \$1,604 and expenses were \$149,038. Budget vs. actual for May 2020: expenses are under budget by \$79,861.

5. Public Communications:

None.

6. Commissioners' Communications:

None.

7. Old Business: a) Fire Commissioner Election:

Comm. DuFour said he sent an email to Atty. Landolina asking him if the District has to hold an election when only one person applied for 2 open seats. According to our Charter, we still have to go through the election process and have all-day voting to elect Ernie to the seat he has now. If the election is on June 30th, I am not sure what is going to happen with my seat. I think the Board can cast one ballot and I can stay on until we can find someone else. That would be fine with me. If nobody applies for the other open seat, it reverts back to the person who has it now.

Comm. DuFour said Chief Deskis borrowed an election set-up plan from Windsor Locks. The plan is for people to drive up to one station and show their ID. They will then go to a second station to vote.

8. New Business: a) Dispatch Fees:

MOTION to transfer \$8,917.00 from the contingency fund to pay the dispatch fees made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: Comm. DuFour said we went through this before a couple of years ago. The district was charged for the medical calls but they were taken off. The Town revised the fees. Chief Provencher had talked to the Town Manager about it. Chief Deskis said that is what happened last year. The fees were \$19,500. All the chiefs wanted to know why did the fees increase so much. This year the Town said fees included some of the years that were not paid. Are we going to be charged for EMS every year? It is not fair because the department is helping EMS out. It is not right because we just want to help people. It is hard to reach out to the Town Manager and he does not respond. We just want an answer on how the fees are calculated. Comm. Bouthiette asked if the Police Department and the EMS Department are billed. Chief Deskis said yes, they are billed. Why is our department billed for EMS calls if EMS is being billed for them? Comm. Bouthiette said the department gets toned out with EMS for a medical call. The Town is double billing for the same call. That is not right. Comm. DuFour said don't we pay by the sheet. If they put out an EMS sheet for a call they get billed for that. If we put out a fire sheet for the same call, we get billed for that. There can be several sheets for the same call. We are billed multiple times for just one call. My problem is that once the bill is paid, if the Town made a mistake we are not going to get that money back. Comm. Bouthiette asked what the other chiefs think about this. Chief Deskis said they feel the same way we do. Comm. DuFour asked when the bill is due. Chief Deskis said by the end of the month. Comm. DuFour said we should try to get an answer before we send that check out. Chief Deskis said it is going to be discussed at tomorrow's chiefs meeting. Dept. Secy. Steneri said the dispatch fees have been paid the past couple of years. Chief Deskis said the only reason we did not pay last year's fees is because there was no explanation for the fees. Dept. Secy. Steneri said the fees went from about \$8,000 to \$19,000. Comm. Bouthiette said maybe the 5 chiefs can come up with a solution. Roll Call- Motion passed 3-0.

Comm. DuFour said we have to transfer money for the payments to Milliman and Prudential.

MOTION to transfer \$7,006.25 from the contingency fund to pay Prudential for close-out fees made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: Chief Deskis asked Dept. Secy. Steneri how much the second invoice from Prudential was. Dept. Secy. Steneri said \$375.00. Chief Deskis said the total amount due is \$7,381.25.

AMENDED MOTION to transfer \$7,381.25 from the contingency fund to pay Prudential for close-out fees made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 3-0.

MOTION to transfer \$4,850.00 from the contingency fund to pay Milliman for close-out of the old pension made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 3-0.

9. Approval of Minutes from May 13 special meeting and May 20 regular meeting:

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes from the May 13 special meeting and the May 20 regular meeting made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 3-0.

10. Adjourn:

MOTION to adjourn made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Bouthiette. All in favor by ayes at 7:26 pm.