

**Commissioners Meeting  
May 8, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.  
976 Main Street, Freedom Hall, Cotuit, Massachusetts**

Called to order at 5:30

Commissioners present: Rick Pisano, Kevin Conley, Adam Zais and Fire Chief Paul Rhude

No public Recording

**Public Comment:** No public comment

**Minutes:** Motion made to approve April, 2018 minutes with no changes, seconded, all in favor

**Report of the Policy Advisory Committee from the Representative:**

Commissioner Zais did not have anything to add but said there may be a recommendation coming.

**Chief Report**

- **Monthly Activities:**
  - 70 Total responses for April
  - 39 Medical
  - 1 Chimney Fire
  - 30 Service/Good Intent/False Alarm
- **Administrative:**
  - Finally got Imagetrend and Fire House connected to COMM'S cad system.
  - Still working with town of Barnstable and Open Cape to get fiber optics
- **Training:**
  - Substance abuse recognition and mental health- per the CBA we are required to give a class on substance abuse recognition. The fire service is starting to focus on fitness training but has ignored mental health. Along with substance abuse recognition, the speaker specializes in mental health and skills for coping with stress- this class is a start to help to de-stigmatize the receiving of mental health treatment. Chief proposed recognizing mental health in a training and will offer each FF an incentive to receive services/training twice a year (off duty) and the department will offer an additional eight hours of personal time a year out of the training account (this is a one-year trial)
  - Planning joint TOB Fire Depts and Barn. Police active shooter/school drills, stop the bleed-still working on that as the PD is finding a new Chief. Also discussing joint operation center for storms and events. Possible starting a volunteer program with Fire/Police to be available for events and storm coverage in a non-emergency capacity.

**Comstar Report/Pro EMS:**

Pro Ems doesn't come out until the tenth. August will be the last month with Comstar

<b>2017-05-</b> May		<b>\$36,259.56</b>	<b>\$23,061.23</b>
<b>2017-06-</b> June	<b>14</b>	<b>\$15,624.09</b>	<b>\$7,200.85</b>
<b>2017-07-</b> July		<b>\$45,751.87</b>	<b>\$25,465.63</b>
<b>2017-08-</b> August	<b>38</b>	<b>\$44,081.79</b>	<b>\$20,798.34</b>
<b>2017-09-</b> Septembe1	<b>33</b>	<b>\$50,284.09</b>	<b>\$21,008.90</b>
<b>2017-10-</b> October	<b>32</b>	<b>\$69,182.70</b>	<b>\$20,637.88</b>
<b>2017-11-</b> November	<b>29</b>	<b>\$59,876.46</b>	<b>\$24,005.89</b>
<b>2017-12-</b> December	<b>17</b>	<b>\$36,172.74</b>	<b>\$10,890.72</b>
<b>2018-01-</b> January		<b>\$95,818.22</b>	<b>\$34,037.79</b>
Client Totals > <u>    </u> 276 <u>    </u>		\$453,051.52	\$188,407.23   \$138,287.21

**Personnel:**

- Chief proposed adding Christian Gardiner as a call firefighter to respond to medical calls. Commissioner Pisano made a motion to approve Christian Gardiner onto the Call FF list, seconded, all in favor.
- Proposal for mental health treatment incentive
- Commendation for storm responses (74 responses over 3 storms).

**Apparatus:**

- The electronics for the boat has been ordered thanks to the donation received from David Mugar and the FF Association. Chief sent Mr. Mugar a thank you letter thanking him for his support.
- Chief and Commissioner Conley went to the Barnstable Police Department to research the drone program. More research will be needed to see if best for Cotuit Fire.

**Facilities:**

- Nothing new to report

**New Business:**

- No new movement on the Cancer Medical Bill at this time
- Review of Executive Session Minutes from November 14, 2017 meeting. No concerns or questions. Commissioner Pisano also included other accompanying documents that once approved will go into open records. These documents include the original inquiry from the Inspector General's office which started Commissioner Pisano's involvement started in October 2017 in response to the complaint about overtime or vacation leave accrual-the IGO reviewed the history of it back to the original complaint filed in 2012. The estimate was five Fire Fighter's accrued approximately 709 vacation days valued at a total of \$18,958. Two of these five Fire

Fighters have left district service and received paid vacation time accruals. The remaining three Firefighters were still district employees and eligible to use remaining vacation time. The Fire Fighters have a total of approximately \$5800 in accrued, but unused vacation time that remains the open liability for the district. These three seem to have used some or all of their unearned vacation time-as a result we received a letter from the IG office is requesting a response to this material subsequent to our meeting and with the material we forwarded (inaudible) IG our formal response we were required to get in at the end of last year. The document reflecting the response will be posted with these minutes. Subsequently, there have many repeated requests for this information regarding the status of this investigation. Commissioner Pisano entered into the record that the IG office responded on April 19. The IG council informed our attorney that it is policy of the IG office to not confirm or deny the existence of an investigation or an audit even the council of an entity that is the subject of such investigation or audit. Since they will not confirm or deny the existence of an investigation or audit they will not comment on any status of any investigation or audit. So, no information on what the status is now. After having that policy explained, Commission Pisano asked does that mean they will not comment on a status of an investigation while it is ongoing. Was told that they will not comment at any time. Commissioner Pisano then asked does that mean the Fire district will not receive from the IG any correspondence indicating that the audit or investigation has been concluded whatever the outcome, she said yes that is probably what will happen. Subject to that, we decided there is no longer any purpose to keeping the material in executive session with approval of these minutes and attending documents these will become public record. Motion made to approve the Executive Session minutes and attending documents with no changes, seconded, all in favor. Copies given to the petitioner

May 4<sup>th</sup> workshop-well organized and wonderful experience.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn, seconded and unanimously approved