

Fire Commissioner's Meeting Draft Minutes

9.13.21

Present: Chairman Rick Pisano, Commissioner's Adam Zais & Kevin Conley,
Fire Chief Paul Rhude, Deputy Chief Pouliot

– meeting live at Freedom Hall in addition to ZOOM-

- **Public Comment**

- **Technical difficulty**
 - **Audience cannot ask questions during open session**
 - **Will need to hire an outside source for online comments**

Meeting Minutes from 8.10.21

- Vote on discussion regarding adding public comment to the end – should be two are for it and one abstention
- Training should not be 9.12.2021 but should be 10.12.2021
 - Motion to accept minutes with changes – all in favor

Fire Chief Report:

- 114 total responses
 - 3 fires
 - 1 grill fire in district / 1 oven fire in district / 1 was mutual aid in Falmouth
 - 76 medical calls
 - 5 hazardous conditions
 - 33 service good intent / false alarm calls
- Overlapping calls
 - Guidelines for reduce staff on ambulance calls – when appropriate – when patient is stable
 - Run with 2 people – keep 1 person back on duty crew
 - Guideline to reduce the contiguous hours of work
 - Large amount of OT shifts and not everyone is taking them
 - Reducing long work periods
 - Keeping Firefighters available for second calls
 - Received from other communities 16 Mutual aid over the past 2 months
 - Provided 18 mutual aid
 - COMM – Cotuit and Cotuit – COMM (some Mashpee)

Administration:

SOGs

- **Chairman Pisano asked about a report regarding: Frequency of overlapping calls and if they would be addressing implications for staffing and mutual aid?**
 - *Chief Rhude replied that those issues would be addressed*
- **Commissioner Zais asked to be trained on reading the report since it was new.**
- **Chairman Pisano explained the SOG breakdown and how it led to Bargaining Session**

PRO EMS REPORT

- attached

Training:

- Search and rescue 9.15.2021 from 9am to 12 noon @ Cotuit Elementary School
- Forcible Entry 10.12.2021 from 9am to 12 noon
- Community CPR Class 10.04.2021 from 5pm to 8pm @ Freedom Hall
 - Those interested can email Casey Staggs (Cotuit Currents)
- Training events are open to the public

Personnel:

- One person out on IOD

Apparatus:

- Used ambulance from Brewster will still be available sometime in November/December 2021

Facilities:

- Painting 4 more rooms
 - Finishing up by the end of the calendar year
 - Painting company scheduled for 9.14.2021 morning for estimate

Cotuit Currents:

- Regarding 9/11 posting
 - Very well attended gathering

OLD BUSINESS:

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Zais

- Meeting on 9.13.2021

Commissioner Zais – Elementary School update

- Next meeting on 9.16.2021
 - o No new update

FIREFIGHTER PHYSICAL FITNESS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Conley & Chief Rhude

- Received a proposal from firefighters
 - o Will schedule a time to meet with them to review proposal and any suggestions moving forward

New Business:

- Draft SOGs related to staffing
 - o Commissioner's have been asked by the Union to address that matter in Impact Bargaining – executive session meeting will need to be scheduled
 - Same category as Contract Bargaining
 - o Impact Bargaining
 - SOGs have significant effects on their working conditions
 - Need to renew the Bargaining Committee
 - Including one person from Prudential
 - Union can choose to have legal counsel or not
 - Fire Department can choose to have legal counsel or not
 - Same as Contract Bargaining Session
 - **Chairman Pisano asked Commissioner Conley to chair the Committee for the Impact Bargaining Session. He asked Fran Parks continue her role as the Prudential representative for the Committee for the Impact Bargaining Session.**
 - *Commissioner Conley said yes*
 - *Fran Parks “thumbs up” that she would continue.*
 - o Chairman Pisano nominated Commissioner Conley to chair the Committee for the Impact Bargaining Session
 - All in favor
 - **Commissioner Zais asked about the steps of Impact Bargaining**
 - **Discussion with the Firefighters and their Attorney will happen in Executive Session only with Commissioner Conley, Chairman Pisano & Fran Parks?**
 - o *Commissioner Pisano answered that the named individuals above have been the Contract Bargaining team with or without legal representation and a negotiating team will be present during the Impact Bargaining Sessions – just like the Contract Bargaining Sessions.*
 - **Commissioner Zais asked what the “mechanics” of the Impact Bargaining Sessions were re SOGs? After the Impact Bargaining Session, are the SOGs agreed to in that meeting or**

as a result, after the meeting, are brought forward to the discussion for Fire Commissioner's Meeting?

- *Chairman Pisano answered that much like the Contract Bargaining Sessions would go on until some form of agreement is reached, at which point, IF there is an agreement, it is reported as such to the Union and will be voted upon. Then it becomes an adjustment to the existing contract.*
- **Chairman Pisano asked about whether there were any guidelines or schedule.**
 - *Chief Rhude said that he would get back to the Commissioners about times.*
- **Hurricane Henri**
 - Discussion with DPW before Henri hit
 - Were not able to commit a pre-planned staging equipment
 - Rented from Coastal Tool rental to rent a heavy piece of equipment
 - Chief had a conversation with the Assistant DPW and have scheduled a meeting with 5 fire departments, DPW, Town Manager's office and PD to review of everyone's resources, how to best prepare and utilize everyone's resources and come up with a plan instead of renting equipment.
 - Looking at trying to get a multi-purpose piece of equipment for not a large capital investment
 - No proposal for Commissioner's yet but working on it
 - Commissioner Conley asked if the Chief was looking to see what Government equipment is available?
 - Chief answered that the Government put a pause on requests and has stopped access of viewing the equipment because equipment had been misplaced by other communities but requests can be made into Forestry, which Chief asked them to look out for different equipment for Cotuit FD.

Cotuit Town Dock Restriction

November 2020 Dredging - JP Fueling Company

- Fuel boats at marine facilities requires permits signed by Fire Dept and State
- Chief Rhude Signed off on fueling permit with the stipulation that the fueling truck had to remain on the asphalt and could not be positioned on the dock
 - Resulted in Town of Barnstable commissioning an engineering study Completed on August 12, 2021
 - Dock had a capacity of 10k lbs. - run by the town
 - Town decided to block off the dock to prevent any vehicles from going on it and did not share the study result information with the

Fire Commissioners nor the Prudential Committee which led to misunderstandings

- Significant project to get the dock opened up for more than 10k lbs.
- ****Commissioner communication with Union had always been open. Anything that is brought to the Commissioners that is of significance, will always be brought to the Deputy and Chief.**
- ****Commissioners made clear with the Union that they were always welcome to contact/share information.**
- Union had a discussion with treasurer regarding payroll concern and went around the Deputy and Chief and made it more complicated than needed.
- Would like for the Commissioner to start having a meeting with the Executive Board of the Union perhaps on a monthly basis on a “Round Robin” approach - with one Commissioner each month or perhaps when the Union has Executive Board meetings and when they have any interest to have a Commissioner present but still in a “Round Robin” format and meet after the Union’s Executive Board meetings.
- Chief will forward a request to the Union regarding the “Round Robin” format

Scheduling Executive Session for Disciplinary Issues Discussion

- Attorney’s schedules are not known yet but Commissioners are available for their Executive Session 9.22.21 @ 5:30pm
 - Chief will follow up with the District Attorney’s schedule
- October 12, 2021 Commissioner’s Meeting will be by ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Cynthia Gardner
 - **Could the Chief break down his priority calls into Priority 1, 2 & 3?**
- **Update on Deputy’s vehicle?**
 - *(Chairman Pisano answered) Vehicle scheduled in October.*
- **Firefighter IOD question on light duty?**
 - *(Chairman Pisano answered) Will have to look at insurance policy.*
- **When we rec’d mutual aid calls last month did any require the paramedics?**
 - *(Chairman Pisano answered) Chief and Chairman will go back over to see how complicated it would be.*

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor