

Fire Commissioner's Meeting Draft Minutes

11.9.21

Present: Chairman Rick Pisano, Commissioner's Adam Zais & Kevin Conley,

Fire Chief Paul Rhude

– meeting in Town Hall

- **Public Comment**

- John Gardner – will do Public Comment at the end

Meeting Minutes from 10.12.21

- Motion to approve 10.12.2021 minutes – All in favor

Fire Chief Report:

- Storm brought 200 mph winds
 - Town made the decision to house two DPW workers in the fire station
 - Held two firefighters over from the night shift and worked alongside the town with opening the roads back up
 - Fire station lost cellular and phone service for a few days
 - Looking at a secondary form of backup whether it is StarLink
 - (Radios worked fine)

Administration:

SOGs

- Draft SOGs introduced back in September
 - Chief Rhude made the recommendation that they withdraw the SOGs
 - Change the SOG that changes days after that could have been present
 - Modify SOG for ambulance staffing
 - Modification that includes increasing the exceptions
 - *Commissioner Conley asked Chief Rhude what his thoughts were on reviewing with the members of the department?*
 - **Chief Rhude answered that the Commissioners recommendation would be that the Chief agreed that they would-prior to drafting the final verbiage that specifies what the exemptions would be-we would interface with the union and the officers to get their input on what that verbiage would be. Intent is to cover the firefighters for safety reasons. Make sure there are two in the back for safety**
 - Staffing issues – limited standby coverage
 - Once solution is increasing our standby and minimum hours
 - 3-hour minimum daytime
 - 4-hour minimum at night and weekends

- 6-month trial period
 - This would enact the CBA Provision and negotiated last contract which is a three person recall standard
 - Recall personnel to make up three firefighters in the station
 - Would not exceed budget
 - Task the union to create “comp time” so that the firefighters - instead of getting OT for recall for other OT reasons, they would be permitted to choose comp time instead
 - Motion to move to a three-hour minimum from 0700 to 2300 and a four-hour minimum from 2300 to 0700 with the option of leveraging comp time during that time and also leveraging the CBA agreement with the staffing of three personnel at the time for six-month trial period
 - All in favor

PRO EMS REPORT

- attached

Training:

Personnel:

- One fire fighter out on IOD – hopeful that this person will be able to come back in December 2021

CHIEF SEARCH:

- 28 Applications
 - Chief Rhude recommends forming a Search Committee with a single Fire Commissioner on the Search Committee
 - Chairman Pisano moves to appoint a Search Committee that is authorized to go through and bring back to the Board a list of finalists
 - Deputy Chief should be on the committee
 - Chief Rhude should be on the committee
 - Chairman put his name in to be on the committee as the Board Representative
 - Mr. Gardner had previously written in expressing interest in being the citizen representative
 - Chief JJ Burke from Sandwich Fire and Michael Wim from Comm Fire volunteered to be a part of the committee
 - Commissioner Conley offered to be on the committee as well
 - Motion to create a Search Committee to review the Chief’s applications and leverage resources outside of the exact commissioners for that search
 - All in favor

- Motion regarding the personnel on the Search Committee to include Commissioner Conley as the representative for the Board of Commissioners of the Cotuit Fire Dept.
 - All in favor
 - Search Committee members:
 - Chief Rhude
 - Deputy Chief Pouliot
 - Chief JJ Burke
 - Chief Michel Wim
 - Mr. Gardner as citizen representative
 - Kevin Connelly
 - All in favor

Apparatus:

- Spare ambulance out of Brewster will now be available in February 2022 instead of December 2021
 - Commissioner Zais stated he does not think that the spare ambulance should be purchased
 - Commissioner Connelly stated that he thinks that the vehicle should be purchased
 - *Commissioner Zais asked what the status was on the exhaust system in the current vehicle.*
 - **Chief Rhude answered that it is functioning**

Facilities:

- 2 Quotes for inside painting but need 3 for state regulations
 - Commissioner Conley stated that the 3rd bid has taken a long time and questioned how to get move forward
 - Chief stated that he will work on getting the 3rd bid and/or communication stating no bid. The painter has to be an insured vendor.
- November 19, 2021 – “Goodbye” coffee gathering at the Fire Station 10am-12pm

Cotuit Currents: n/a

Needs Assessment: n/a

OLD BUSINESS:

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Zais - School Building subcommittee

- No updates / no meeting

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Commissioner Zais – Elementary School update

FIREFIGHTER PHYSICAL FITNESS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Conley & Chief Rhude

- Holding pattern – no progress. Will re-engage over the next couple of weeks.

New Business: n/a

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Cynthia Gardner
 - Questioned the SOGs –
 - Asked if the Chief was going into impact bargaining or are they going to be put on hold until he discusses it with the fire fighters? Is impact bargaining on hold? Will it stay on hold until the new fire Chief is appointed or will it move forward before a new fire Chief is hired?
 - Chairman Pisano stated no, they will not be put on hold.
 - Asked if John Gardner was the brother of a Cotuit fire fighter?
 - He is not the same John Gardner.

Motion to Adjourn

All in favor