

Fire Commissioners Meeting  
Draft Minutes  
March 20, 2020

Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Commissioner's Rick Pisano, Adam Zais, Kevin Conley, Fire Chief Paul Rhude.  
Treasurer Ray Pirrone joined the meeting at 5:38.

Commissioner Pisano and Commissioner Zais are recording

No Public Comment

**Discuss and vote on recommendation for hire and promotion:**

Chief Rhude discussed the open FF/Par positions. Have received two qualified applications-have interviewed them and reviewed. Committee discussed the candidates work experience, skills and availability. Commissioner Conley made a motion to approve the Chief's request to hire these two candidates, second, all in favor.

Chief Rhude continued that he would like to promote Lt. Joe Pouliot to Acting Deputy. Lt Pouliot has been a FF in Cotuit for over thirty years, training officer and has been covering for the Chief when he is out of town-this position will be helpful with administration functions in the station. Commissioner Zais asked about compensation-Chief Rhude replied he would like to offer to pay \$115,000. discussion continued about budgets, staffing needs, and needs of the community. Commissioner Zais expressed his opinion and concern about this position and the budget. Commissioner Conley made a motion to accept the Chief's recommendation to go forward with a temporary acting Deputy, second, Commissioner Pisano asked for any further discussion-no comments, roll call-Pisano Conley Zais all yes. Chiefs stated the Lt Pouliot will now be on the day shift and he is looking into possibly having three shifts with four FF and plans on isolating each shift to avoid interaction. Standby will no longer be offered, and the FF will have longer hours (rather than 42 will have 56-hour weeks-14 hours will be overtime for each person) then four days off-other departments are looking into this change too. The union is open to this shift model and due to potential sickness overtime will still increase. Chief Rhude will have an SOP with this model completed by Monday explaining the details. Discussion continued and Chief agreed to keep the Commissioners posted on how this model is going and will also review with the Union regularly. Commissioner Conley does not feel this needs a vote as it is in the Chiefs authority to bring a MOU to the Union-Commissioner Zais agreed.

Chief Rhude discussed call staff-and he would like the ability to recruit people from the Community College EMT classes-they would be temporary employees under the call department. Chief Rhude also briefly discussed a new SOP regarding patient contact. All agreed would like to get people lined up as quickly as possible. Commissioner Conley made a motion that the Chief has the authority to hire/bring aboard as many call FF as he deems necessary throughout this period of the COVID virus, Commissioner Pisano asked Conley to modify it to say EMT, Chief Rhude asked it to be modified to say First Responders-modified to First Responders, second, call to a vote, all in favor.

Other business/topics not anticipated by the Chair-N/A

Motion to adjourn, second, all in favor.

