

Easton Fire Commission

Regular Meeting

November 16, 2016

Filed subject to approval

Attendance: D. Buchanan, R. Cable, D. Katz, J. Miranda, T. Pajonas

Also in attendance: P. Neary, S. Waugh

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm

Commissioner Pajonas motioned to approve the October minutes. Commissioner Katz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Waugh distributed the incident report. There were 44 incidents and 19 incident types. There were 23 firefighters and 56.16 man-hours. Two firefighters took the pump operators' tests this weekend. There is a candidate for Fire Fighter I, and a new firefighter currently on probation. Hose testing was completed in-house with good results. There was very little loss so the Chief hopes to get through another year without hose replacement. Ladders and air packs will be tested in January. The engines are being maintained. However, the turbo blew in Engine 2 after the Halloween bonfire and the cost to replace it was \$4,400. Engine 3's rear brakes were replaced at a cost of \$2,000. There was also additional money spent on repairs such as \$1,200 for an air compressor. The Chief was concerned as it's November and the Department is almost out of money for maintenance expense. He will ask the BOF to increase the maintenance budget next year from \$25,000 to \$30,000. Although the education expenditures are slightly over budget, all other budget items are in line. Commission Buchanan stated that the BOF needs to become aware that the equipment is aging, i.e., Engine 4 is well past its estimated life and it's important for all Fire Department equipment to be maintained properly. All engines will get undercoated to address the exposure to the liquids on the roads. Annual physical testing will begin on 12/3. The chief was concerned about the physical examination costs increasing due to additional testing requirements from the State. This includes blood tests, X-rays and colonoscopies for firefighters 50 and over. He will monitor the costs for future budgets. The Halloween bonfire was not acceptable. Unfortunately material such as pine trees and mulch were included with the logs and it was costly to put out the fire in a timely manner. Public Works and Park and Rec. were notified about this situation. Marshal Neary will contact Public Works next year and plan an inspection four days before the bonfire. There will be training classes in Danbury and the Department is continuing to develop its relationship with the Fairfield Fire Department. In-house drills include extrication on 12/12 and cold-water rescue in January. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the rust situation on Engine 3. Chief Waugh has brought the Engine to Pierce and was very disappointed with Pierce's customer service. Pierce said the corrosion was due to the paint and it was not because of metal corrosion. The Chief will deal with this issue next year. There will be a meeting in December to discuss the purchase of a new Engine 4.

Marshal Neary presented the Fire Marshal's report. There were seven burning permits and no blast permits issued in October. Public fire education was presented at Samuel Staples School to first and second grade students: 13 classes, 260 students. The sprinkler repair is complete.

Commissioner Miranda asked about the tree trimming activity. The Chief expressed concern about tree branches hitting and causing damage to fire trucks. There is a strong need for trimming in town, and in some cases, taking down dead trees.

Commissioner Cable motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Commissioner Miranda seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Roberta Cable, Secretary