

Board of Fire Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2021
Filed subject to Approval

Attendance: D. Buchanan, D. Katz, Miranda, J. Yeotsas

Also in attendance: S. Waugh, P. Neary, R. Klem, Representatives from Jesse Lee Dr./Crescent Rd. Area

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Several residents in the Jesse Lee Dr./Crescent Rd. Area brought to the attention of the Commission the areas concern about excessive complaints continuing to be made by a neighbor. Many felt these complaints were averse to neighborhood tranquility. There was also concern that Town emergency resources were unnecessarily expended due to these complaints. It was indicated to them that Fire Department Officers, the Fire Marshall's office and the Commission were aware of the situation and were working with First Selectman's office and other Town agencies to mitigate the situation.

Commissioner Buchanan moved to approve the February minutes as revised, was seconded, and the Motion passed. The revision of the Minutes caused the next to last paragraph thereof to read:

The Chief presented in discussed the rural water supply update. He presented a proposal showing that seven dry hydrants are in need of repair at a cost of \$75,000. There may be grant money, so the actual cost may be \$4,500 less. He asked the Commissioners to support the dry hydrant project. He addressed the concern that the hydrants mostly benefit the north end residents, stating that the town does many things that benefit only specific residents. This would be a one-time cost of \$27 to households to help improve public safety. Commissioner Yeotas asked if there are other alternatives than taxing Easton residents for this maintenance/repair? Only the small grant above could be found, unless the Selectman or the Finance Commission had available other sources. He also asked why the south end pays a fire tax whereas the north end doesn't? He said he will vote along with the Commission, if they decide to vote for the funds to be appropriated. Commissioner Buchanan motioned to proceed with the dry hydrant project. No one seconded. The motion was tabled.

Chief Waugh suggested a change to the March Minutes, revising the next to last paragraph of the "Submitted subject to approval minutes", next to last sentence to read "All candidates were notified of the outcome of the interview process with regard to their individual candidacy." This was agreed to and a Motion made by Commissioner Buchanan, seconded by Commissioner Katz, to approve the Minutes for the March minutes, as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Waugh made his report. He indicated that there were 53 calls in March, there was no change in the sales effort for old E4, the current budget expenditures are in line with the existing budget and Department staffing efforts are in line with plans. The 2021-22 Budget being presented to the Town is in accordance with our approvals.

Marshal Neary discussed his report. No fire investigations were necessary and inspections are proceeding without issue. Dry conditions continue to preclude open burning.

Commissioner Buchanan asked Chief Waugh about the current budget and post COVID activities. The Chief said the Department is good with the budget. They are back to live training. Firefighters will continue to wear masks on calls. Commissioner Buchanan thanked the Chief and Assistant Chief for their budget presentations as well as the BOF.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *subject to approval*,

Commissioner David Buchanan, Chairman