

BOLTON FIRE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021  
BOLTON FIRE HOUSE – 7:00 P.M.  
AND VIA ZOOM

Fire Commission member John Morianos convened the Bolton Fire Commission meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the Bolton Fire House and via Zoom.

Commission members present were John Roback and Chris Moquin. Fire Chief Bruce Dixon was also in attendance. Fire Marshal James Rupert and Deputy Fire Marshal Bill Call attended via Zoom call. Absent were Cheryl Udin and Robert Langton.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion to approve minutes from March 22, 2021 meeting (JR/CM) V.U.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – March bills were circulated.

CORRESPONDENCE – Letter from Joseph White, President Bolton Fire Department Inc. stating “It is my honor to notify you that Bolton Fire Department Inc. has nominated two members listed below for your approval as Chief and Deputy of the Bolton Fire Department:

Bruce A. Dixon, Chief and Michael Eremita, Deputy Chief. The terms are April 2021 through March 2022.

Motion to accept the above nomination (JR/CU) V.U.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHIEF

- The Bolton Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) responded to over 48 calls the last month. These included five brush fires, two fires in structures in town, four motor vehicle accidents with injuries on Interstate 388, Route 44 and Route 6 split, and Hebron and School Roads. Provided assistance to Vernon Fire Department and provided water tanker shuttle assistance for Manchester Fire Rescue EMS at a working house fire.
- The BVFD sent your apparatus out for its annual service, DOT testing and pump testing this past month. ET334 will return to the service dealer for repairs to some large piping that has rusted out in the water pump again.
- The new Service 334 which has been on order since last fall, continues to be delayed because of COVID related shortages in materials and transportation backlogs. Chief Dixon has been communicating with some other vendors to get additional equipment ordered under this capital project to properly operate with this vehicle to continue to provide a quality service to our residents. Historically, the vehicle vendor handles all ancillary equipment purchases with the vehicle sale. The vehicle dealer informed us that he would do the same again, for additional costs. We declined this offer, to procure the equipment at a lower cost to the town.

- The new Engine Tank committee meets regularly, reviewing specifications and details. At this time they are on target to making a recommendation to Chief Dixon by the first of June. Chief Dixon has sent several communications to the Selectmen and the Finance Department with information on HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing, a nationwide government procurement service striving to make the governmental procurement process more efficient. Units of local government, including non-profits providing governmental services, are eligible to become participating members of the HGACBuy Cooperative. All contracts available to participating members of HGACBuy have been awarded by virtue of a public competitive procurement process compliant with state statutes. This program can save the Town of Bolton from 1% to 3 % of this capital purchase, \$8,000 to over \$ 20,000. The manufacturers are encouraging us to use this program. Many of the surrounding communities have taken advantage of this program, including the Bolton Board of Education. We hope to hear from the Selectmen and Finance Director on this opportunity. The apparatus dealers have also informed us that the Detroit DD13 engine will not be available for the fire service after July 1, 2021. If a letter of intent is signed prior to this date, the majority of our town apparatus would then have the same engine and save over \$4,000.00 by not going with a different manufacturer.
- The budget is on target as we have been in prior years. We will request some transfers of funds within accounts to finalize the purchasing of needed supplies and equipment before the end of the fiscal year.
- The BVFD conducted our annual Live Burn at the Eastern CT Fire School last weekend. Eighteen of our members participated. Andover Fire Department accompanied us in order that we continue to train with our mutual aid partners and share the expense of this training exercise.
- We have a new Cadet program in place with five students, 16 and 17 years old, training every week. We currently have two members in the final weeks of their Firefighter 1 class at Eastern CT Fire School. Another member has completed their EMS-I certification, as an EMS Instructor, and we have two more CPR Instructors that completed their training this month.

#### FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Activities during the last month included:

- Fire investigation at 2 Brandy Street on April 18, 2021 at 11:34 am. The cause was accidental from a heat lamp in proximity to wood shavings with damage minimal.
- Assigned Deputy Fire Marshal Call to conduct following activities: Inspect tent at Georgina's with ABO Heckman, check on progress for door replacement 890 Boston Tpke and ensure means of egress are maintained, check on tent install at Villa Louisa, request to complete paperwork to become a burning official due to current lack of qualified individuals.
- Also, review plans for 129 Boston Turnpike for new filling station, tanks, dispensers and review plans for 1100 Boston Turnpike for new 10,000 square foot retail space.

## DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

No fire investigations past month.

Inspections since last meeting include:

- Stable Studio – re-inspection
- Landie Construction – apartment building
- Re-inspection Dean Cabinets - Passed
- Mini golf building
- 299 Hop River Road – old dewatering building
- South Road Apartments all fire rated doors to common hallways completed
- 666 Boston Turnpike
- 180 Boston Turnpike
- 874 Hop River Road – gun dealer
- Multiple inspections for 890 Boston Turnpike – hallway egress impediment
- Fire rated door installation in common hallways is underway
- DFM is in the process of obtaining certified burning official for the Town
- All apartment buildings have had the common areas inspected. Individual unit inspection will be sometime in June

## OLD BUSINESS –

Before the former Town Administrator, Joshua Kelly left he had reached out to department heads to see if they needed any equipment. Chief Dixon met with the Deputy Chief and the Officers to discuss this offer, and then informed Mr. Kelly that the Fire Department could utilize an enclosed trailer. The trailer would be purchased with end of the year funds. The Fire Commission has discussed this for years in the past. The trailer would be used for storing and transporting the Utility Vehicle (UTV) forestry and stretcher equipment, but the Fire Commission took the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department's recommendation not to put this item into the Capital Plan due to other items that were higher on the priority list for emergency response.

At the April 6, 2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting, the First Selectman expressed concern that this was the first she heard anything about this and wanted to know how this happened. She also mentioned that Chief Dixon skirted the Fire Commission and did not discuss this with the Fire Commission. She mentioned that this is an item the taxpayers of Bolton did not have an opportunity to see in the Capital Plan and this is a concern. Chief Dixon did respond back as noted in the recording of the April 6 meeting. Chief Dixon said he would follow up after several of the Selectmen requested additional information. This was tabled for discussion at the May 4 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Chris Moquin who has been on the Fire Commission for many years. He recalls this being discussed in the past. He supported the purchase of the trailer as this would help with the overcrowding in the bays.

John Roback mentioned that he recalled talking about this approximately 4 years go. However, it was moved further down on the list of equipment needed. He also supports the purchase of the trailer.

Chairman John Morianos mentioned that many times things are not included in the minutes as they are a discussion, especially if the funding is not available. And that Chief Dixon is always open about

discussions and has regular email and conversations with him. Our budget limits the commission as to what it can purchase. Many of the larger items we would like to purchase are typically listed in the Capital Plan. It was decided that Chairman John Morianos would write a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion to approve the purchase of a new trailer for the utility vehicle and other equipment, if funds are available (JR/CU) V.U.

NEW BUSINESS – None

Next meeting scheduled for May 17, 2021 (third Monday) at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. (JR/CM) V.U.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet K. Assard*

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PLEASE SEE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETING FOR APPROVAL/CORRECTIONS TO THESE MINUTES.