

BOLTON FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021
BOLTON FIRE HOUSE – 7:00 P.M.
AND VIA ZOOM

Fire Commission Chairman 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 Chris Moquin, Robert Langton and Elizabeth Malone. Fire Chief Bruce Dixon and Deputy Fire Marshal Bill Call. Fire Marshall James Rupert was in attendance via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion to approve minutes from July 26, 2021 (CM/EM) V.U. Did not have an August meeting scheduled.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – August and September bills were circulated and discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHIEF

- The Bolton Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) responded to 72 emergencies over the last month, which included three motor vehicle accidents, one CPR, multiple medical calls, 6 fire alarms and 2 COVID cases.
- The 2021-2022 budget year has begun and not a lot to report on at this point. Shipman's Fire Equipment has been sold to Municipal Emergency Services in Sandy Hook, CT.
- The new Service truck has returned from VA where a custom modular equipment cabinet was installed. Graphics and some final installs on lighting will be done by the end of October.
- The Board of Finance invited Chief Dixon to a meeting last week. Fire Commission Chairman John Morianos and Deputy Chief Eremita accompanied the Chief at a ZOOM call/meeting. There were a number of questions on the upcoming referendum vote for the replacement fire truck, questions on retaining the current truck and a number of questions about the proposed addition to the fire house. Chief Dixon will provide the Board of Finance and Board of Selectman a document answering a number of the questions in detail.
- The BVFD was been awarded a FEMA Grant for \$ 120,000 to replace Forestry 134.

- The BVFD hosted the 20th Anniversary of 9-11 at the fire house. This event included the First Selectman, State Senator, the Caudullo family, the Bolton high school band and chorus and other invited guests. The event was very well attended by the public.
- The private bridge has been installed over the brook on Mark Anthony Road. Chief Dixon is in conversation with the town concerning the allowable weight limits for this structure. There are four occupied houses on the opposite side of the bridge.
- Chief Dixon has had conversation with Superintendent of School Kristen Hecht and Center School Principal to plan out the upcoming Fire Prevention program. The Fire Marshal's Office and the BVFD are planning an event on October 15, 2021.
- Chief Dixon, Deputy Chief Eremeta and Fire Commission Chair John Morianos attended the TCMAFS meeting in West Stafford.

Fire Marshal Report

- Deputy Fire Marshal Bill Call has been doing a higher level of inspections with the apartments in town.
- Marc Anthony Road – There are concerns regarding the temporary bridge as there are no engineering designs. The concerns are for testing, soil samples and bearing capacity. The components are good, but there is not a lot of information regarding the soil. We are looking at solutions with the Town Engineer and having further conversations. Chris Moquin questioned the distance from the bridge to the houses. Fire Marshal Rupert replied that the furthest house is approximately 1,000 feet. Chris questioned the plan if our fire trucks cannot cross the bridge. Chief Dixon replied that the BVFD would make a good effort with our hoses and that the Board of Selectmen will have to make a decision about the use of fire trucks. This decision needs to come from the Selectmen and not from the driver of the truck, and this decision will need to be put in writing. Chief Dixon and Fire Marshal Rupert will need to come up with a plan to be proposed to the Board of Selectmen. Chief Dixon indicated that is decision is not just for this point in time but for the next year and years after. Chris and Robert Langton questioned if the trash and recycling trucks are using the bridge. When the bridge is complete, will the trash and recycling trucks be able to use it.

Deputy Fire Marshal Bill Call make his report which included:

- Many calls between mid-May through August with no fire investigations, but did include 2 fire alarms.
- He suggested that the Senior Center members be involved in the elementary school Fire Prevention Contest this year.
- Interacted with the senior's regarding medication, health issues and providing them with information and tips for fire prevention.
- Bolton Center and High School inspections went well.

- 271 Hop River Road – after an inspection, wrote up many violations. The former owner did to remove a lot of junk. M&M oil is now gone. The new owners will remove all of the old paperwork that was left behind. They will also be removing the old tanks.
- 14 Carpenter Road – Some of the apartments were inspected. Some were not due to Covid.
- Notch Road Extension – 6 apartments were inspected once in the common spaces. 2 individual apartments need to be inspected.
- Farm Day – This year new plans and programs were in place. Jim Rupert commented that the Lutz Museum, a partner with Fish Farm for Farm Day, has a new executive director who did a tremendous job and therefore the event was better than in the past. Many volunteers gave up personal time to help with the publics as this was a holiday weekend. This was very much appreciated. Chief Dixon requested 5 state troopers and they received 2.

OLD BUSINESS – Chief Dixon spoke about the memorial garden and new bricks in front of the fire house. The Chemerka family told the chief how much they appreciated the brick for their family member and how nice the garden looked.

NEW BUSINESS – Robert Langton complimented Chief Dixon on the job well done for the 9/11 ceremony. He mentioned that the event was very well attended and organized.

Next meeting scheduled for October 25, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:15 (RL/CU) V.U.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet K. Assard

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