

BOLTON FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021
BOLTON FIRE HOUSE – 7:00 P.M.
AND VIA ZOOM

Fire Commission Chairman John Morianos convened the Bolton Fire Commission meeting at 7:01 P.M. at the Bolton Fire House and via Zoom.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion to approve minutes from May 17, 2021 (RL/CU) V.U.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – May bills were circulated. Chairman Morianos commented that there has been a lot of work done in the last few weeks. Bruce, Jim, and Billy have been finishing up the budget and I think that they are doing a good job.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHIEF

- The Chief thanked all for being on the meeting tonight and welcomed the First Selectman. She stated that the audio is garbled and will likely be so on the recording.
- He reported that ET334 is back and talked about some of the details on the engine replacement for ET334. The Selectman had approved \$55,000 for the repairs. The Chief stated that the radiator repair came under budget. We are still waiting for the engine repair invoice. Ms. Pierog requested the engine invoice be sent to finance by June 30, 2021, the end of our fiscal year. The Chief will make a phone call to try to get the invoice as requested.
- The new service truck is coming along with installed items at J&S in Willimantic and will then go to Virginia in several weeks for additional equipment installation. Decals will then be applied on the way back and the truck will go in service.
- The transfers went through, Jim, Jill and Jenna completed the purchase orders late Friday night, and I thank them for that. Sandy confirmed that we have 45 days after the the close of the fiscal year to have all purchased delivered.
- Bolton Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) responded to 58 calls over the last month, which included a fatal accident in Andover where Bolton provided EMS service with two Service trucks and set up the landing zone for LifeStar with ET334. We went to 9 motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material diesel spill on I 384, standby in Manchester. We responded to a canoe overturned on Bolton Lake when a town Parks Dept. employee at Indian Notch Park called me. The fire department and our new boat responded. Chief Dixon called Cheryl Udin who resides on the lake, she got into her boat and also responded after hearing that there were people in the water that needed assistance. The BVFD was successful in assisting a family of four to safety.

- The Strawberry Festival was held on Friday and Saturday with attendance around 3,000 people and Saturday 10,000 to 13,000 people. Jim Rupert and I made some strong statements Friday night and some more decisions early Saturday morning to how the fair was going to operate and we took notes as a lesson on how upcoming events will operate at the Fish Farm.
- Chief Dixon and Deputy Chief Eremita attended the CT Fire Chiefs Association meeting in Southington.
- The Chief attended the Board of Directors meeting at the Tolland County Dispatch Center and attended a retirement party for Chief Fletcher from the Ashford Fire Department.
- The Cadet program is ongoing. Three cadets are finishing up on a new EMR class. The state testing is scheduled in the near future.
- Attended Bolton High School graduation and supported 2 family members of the BVFD and test the siren on the fire truck for them.
- Jim Rupert, Bill Call, Pam Parsons, Neil Roback and I have looked at software to replacement the Firehouse computer software at the firehouse.
- We have had lighting installed in the new satellite station, and a solar panel with thermostat controlled fan to keep the building cooler in the summer. The Forestry truck, F134, and the new boat, M134, are located in this station. The Chief asked that the old boat be put up for auction to move it out of the station. The Chief had figured out space requirements with the apparatus for our limited space. He said that we can take the engine off and tie the boat to the guard rail out back when the new service truck returns in several weeks. Ms. Pierog asked where the bid is being advertised. Chief Dixon responded that he had an offer of \$1,500 cash. I was told that the cash offer was not acceptable and that it would have to go back out to bid on the town website. Jim Rupert said that the bid did go out on the town website and that there were no bids. Kathy is working on putting that out on the website this week because we do need to find a new home for it.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

- Since the last report there have been two fires investigated by the office of the Bolton Fire Marshal. One on School Road which was likely the result of a failure in a bathroom vent fan and the other a cooking fire on Bolton Center Road. No fire Fighters were injured but a resident had minor injuries as the result of the cooking fire.
- At the beginning of the month we had three occupancies left to inspect to be 100% compliant with our statutory obligations. Two of those have been started with the initial inspections performed and the requisite repairs are being made. Due to scheduling the other will happen in the next few weeks.
- The office of the Bolton Fire Marshal conducted inspections for the Strawberry festival that took place on the Fish Farm earlier this month.
- Bolton Fire Marshal was on site of the Strawberry Festival along with Chief Dixon.

- Bolton Fire Marshal provided assistance for the Hebron/Bolton fireworks display at the Hebron fairgrounds from 12:00 pm until 12:00 am.
- Deputy FM Call remains out on medical leave but FM Lester from Columbia/Andover is providing backup as needed.

Chief Dixon made some complementary comments about the job the the Fire Marshal's office has done in the last year, with the addition of the Deputy Fire Marshal and the volume of inspections and investigations that had been done compared to previous years.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS – Chief Dixon discussed the new budget year and the replacement cycle of ET334. Ms. Pierog mention that \$ 180,000 is set allocated for the new truck, which is not enough. The anticipated schedule for the Board of Selectmen is to include the truck in the bonding package for the rest of the funding. It is doubtful that this will happen before the November election but could possibly happen in the spring of 2022. The Board of Selectmen have not met on the other projects or with the Board of Education, which will be part of the bonding. It would cost almost as much to borrow for the fire truck alone as it would for a total bond package which is in discussion. Ms. Pierog said that God must have been smiling on her when we had to buy the new engine this week for ET334 because now she thinks that it will hold us until the point that a new engine can come on line. Chief Dixon asked if she would be open to different financing opportunities that would carry us over until the bond was completed, noting that there is a potential of one year turn around time for delivery from the time the order is placed Ms. Pierog said she is willing to discuss it, but she has never seen a option that did not adversely effect our financial statements and one thing that is critical to going for a new bond is our outstanding debt or existing commitments that we already have, but that is not to say that something has not been invented that I haven't heard yet and she is willing to listen. Chief Dixon said that he will follow up and have the financial people contact her noting that if it sound applicable to you, good, if not we will move on from there. Ms Pierog said that a lease purchase is a big no no. Chief Dixon said that he will leave the options up to the finance people and her.

Cheryl Udin mentioned that tonight would be her last meeting, since her term expires on July 1, 2021. John Morianos and Chief Dixon both thanked Cheryl Udin and John Roback for their many years of service, dedication, numerous hours of volunteer work and commitment to the Fire Commission and to the residents of Bolton. This also included many hours of meetings, paperwork and phone calls outside of the Fire Commission meetings. John wished them both the best of luck in their future. The Chief stated that people really do not really understand how much communication goes on outside the Fire Commission meeting, Both Cheryl and John are always answering my phone calls, and sometimes calling me. He recognized Cheryl's 12 year term as Chairperson and thanked both of them very much.

The Commission is looking to have two replacement candidates for the July 13 meeting of the Selectmen.

Chief Dixon provided an update on the Memorial Garden. The plants are growing. 70-80 memorial engraved bricks have been ordered. These will include bricks for past members that have passed away and one for Pete Massolini's wife, and Elna Dimock, who were the first dispatchers for the Fire Department many years ago. The hydrant has been installed and tested flowing water and we are waiting for the firefighter statue to come in around the end of July. It will be located in the center of the garden. The Eagle Scout prayer memorial will have LED lights along with the entire garden, and they will be on a timer. This garden was created by gifts of past members and donations from the public.

William Dubey, a boy scout in town, was on the call as he is working on a merit badge for communication and a requirement was to attend a town meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for July 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourned at 7:36 (CU/RL) V.U.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet K. Assard

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