Public Safety Commission
FIRE DEPARTMENT
May 16, 2022

Webex Meeting
---------Minutes---------

1. CALL TO ORDER
Commissioner Ford called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Commissioner Darnell Ford
Commissioner Meghan Carta
Commissioner Phil Pessina

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Commissioner Anthony Mangiafico
Commissioner Linda Salafia

STAFF PRESENT:
Fire Chief Jay Woron
Deputy Fire Chief Dave Albert
Police Chief Erik Costa

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
Commissioner Ford made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 21st meeting, Commissioner Pessina so moved, Commissioner seconded, and all voted in favor to accept the meeting minutes as presented.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

5. CORRESPONDENCE

* None

6. MONTHLY REPORT

* Chief Woron gave the monthly report:
  o 310 calls for the month – up by 32 calls
  o Major fires:
    - Old Road in Westfield
    - Sand Hill Road in Portland
    - Portland Street
    - Freeman Road
    - Brush fire coverage – South Fire District
Events:
- Easter Bunny visited both fire stations
- Kids Health & Safety Fair was held
- Attended the Police Department PAL event with the Rescue truck
- Attended the St. Sebastian’s mass & feast in which the Rescue truck made an appearance
- Attended two opioid task force meetings
- Met with the health department & Reverend Anderson – opioid liaison
- Attending the police department swearing in
- MFD swearing in ceremony held which included Deputy Chief Dave Albert & Assistant Chief James Ehman and eight others
- Attended Special Olympics fundraiser at Jersey Mikes – full on duty shift attended as well as the fire marshals
- Governor Lamont visit to City Hall
- Appointed to the Police Firing Range Committee – attended first meeting
- Attended send-off events for Joe Samolis

Training:
- Dive Team
  - Two pool sessions done
  - Millers Pond training session to be done
- Tech Rescue Team
  - Annual trench rescue refresher to be done next week
- EMS, rope refresher, and trench rescue prep training done among all shifts
- Deputy Chief Albert completed the NIMS 300-400 Command Management courses as required

Alarms Division updates were given which included:
- Decommissioning street boxes project on going
- Annual alarms fee payments down to only ten that owe

7. OLD BUSINESS

- Ambulance response issue update:
  - Middlesex Hospital has petitioned the state for ten ambulances to be put into service – currently have five of the ten
- Overtime budget line
  - Transfer done from the fund balance
- 2022-2023 budget approved
- Quint fire apparatus update:
  - Specs almost ready – meeting with vendor tomorrow
  - Met with the ARPA committee – request submitted for funding and should hear in a couple of weeks
  - Funds have been allocated from the fund balance to CNR if funding is not received
  - The decommissioned Smeal truck as well as the spare engine to be traded in towards the Quint purchase
- Funding put in place for the electric pickup trucks
- Protective clothing is on order and will be in soon
- Anti-violence gear update
  - Request in for grant to cover this purchase
- New apparatus bay door replacements funded through CNR
- Promotional testing all set with HR for the fall
- Entry level testing – finishing up the presentation & will roll out after Memorial Day
  - Middletown Press to do an article on diversity
- New software, Red NMX, ready to go live

Public Safety Meeting – May 16, 2022 minutes
8. NEW BUSINESS
   o Fireworks planning in process
   o Three new recruits will graduate from the fire academy on May 25th
     o Will be fully staffed with the exception of one military deployment
   o Car 1 – new Chevy Tahoe
     o Four lifters broke in the motor – was towed to the dealer for repair
     o No repair cost to the department, under warranty (6000 miles on vehicle)
   o During the Questions to Directors at last month’s Council meeting, Councilman McKeon asked about
   the mutual aid overtime budget
     o Options were discussed and one option Chief Woron threw out was having one fire department within the city
       • The other two departments within the city were not happy with that comment
     o Chief Woron informed the commission of a couple of disturbing things that have since happened:
       • A member of the public tied to Westfield Fire Department stopped by fire headquarters and harassed some of the on duty personnel & gave a story about one of the chiefs & impropriety responding to a fire call
         • Chief has filed reports with the proper city departments and has spoken with the Mayor’s office and HR
       • The Westfield Fire Chief reached out to one of the Middletown Fire Lieutenants and informed him that they were going to remove our engines from the structural fire responses – no formal notice of this has been given – Chief will keep the commission posted

9. Other Matters Not on the Agenda:

10. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters

11. Monthly Summary of Action Taken by the Telecommunications Committee
   • The Siting Council turned down the second tower at Mile Lane – can be appealed but unaware if it will be
   • Dispatch currently down a dispatcher

12. ADJOURNMENT

   Commissioner Ford entertained a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Carta so moved, Commissioner Pessina seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Ruffino
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 20, 2022