

Blue Hills Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020
Location: Blue Hills Fire Department
Time: 7pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai at 7:05pm.

Observance of a Moment of Silence

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked that we observe a moment of Silence.

Roll Call

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Commissioner Sheray McDowell, Commissioner Michelle Adams. Also present were: Fire Chief Willie Jones, Director of Finance and Administration, Errol Bartley, Fire Marshall Bill Lewis and Community Outreach Director, Lieutenant Vincent Jaunai.

Audience Present

Nelson K. Carter, Barbara Taylor, Toni Wimberly, Mark Manson, Mark Manson, Jr., Justin Cusson. The following people were in attendance but did not sign in; Tanya Farmer, Robert Farmer, Fred Nelson, Jacqueline Massey-Greene, Len Besthoff and his camera man from NBC Connecticut and Steve Goode, Hartford Courant.

Discussion and Anticipated Action with regards to the approval of minutes from Commissioner's meeting held on September 2, 2020, September 15, 2020, Special Meeting on September 22, 2020 and Special Meeting on September 29, 2020.

Commissioner Michelle Adams made a motion to accept the minutes from Commissioner's meetings held on September 15, 2020, Special Meeting on September 22, 2020, Special Meeting on Sept. 29, 2020 and to accept and the minutes on Sept. 2, 2020 with the necessary corrections. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheray McDowell. Motion carried unanimously by voice votes.

Commissioner Michelle Adams made a motion add an item to the agenda; to take action on her decision to cancel her vote for the sign. Motion was added under Department Concerns/Good and Welfare. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai. Motion carried unanimously by voice votes.

Chief Report

Fire Chief Willie Jones reported that for the month of September there were 33 calls for service, most significant calls were mainly false alarms, service calls, hazardous conditions, fluid leaks from motor vehicles and unauthorized burns. Year to date there was 353 calls for service. There were no questions for the Chief.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Bill Lewis stated that he came in Monday morning and found a very large tent on the town property in the rear of the firehouse, they didn't have a permit, the building department and his office got the proper permits to them and they had a successful event. Fire Marshal Bill Lewis also stated that he reviewed and corrected state mandate fire reposts, the annual inspection at Seabury & Seabury Meadows was approved, had a conference call with the owner of 1124 Blue Hills Avenue concerning new exit door, completed environmental study for Birken Manufacturing at 3 Old Windsor Road, completed an inspection at the First Cathedral, met with the owner of a daycare regarding a complaint, set up a sprinkler inspection at 470 Cottage Grove Road and it was approved, MDC hooked up a new sprinkler system that was out of service at Bloomfield Health Care, and signed an auto repair application for a proposed auto repair at 31 Toby Road. Commissioner Michelle Adams asked questions of Fire Marshal Bill Lewis in reference to staffing needs for his department.

Director of Finance and Administration Report

Director of Finance Errol Bartley reported that we have a budget of 1.8 million with \$90,000 in investments of which \$48,000 is cash. To date our collections are in good standing. In the first quarter, we have spent \$460,000, which is roughly 24% of the entire budget. Workman's compensation benefit has been paid, in addition, to the first quarter loan. Director of Finance and Administration Errol Bartley also stated that all line items are in good standing. Commissioner Michelle Adams asked questions in reference to the PPP loan.

Training

Fire Chief Willie Jones stated that 2 firefighters are in the final stage of completing the Instructor 1 course and they are really doing well. Chief Jones also stated that training is planned for the upcoming weeks and months. Commissioner Michelle Adams requested a copy of the training schedule.

House Report

No Report

Community Outreach Report

Lieutenant Vincent Jaunai, Community Outreach Officer, stated that no activities have been taking place due to COVID-19, however every Friday for the next weeks the Fire Department will be volunteering at the Mayor's United Food Distribution Event at Rehoboth Church, the Christmas Parade for this year may be a drive by parade, and we will be participating in the Trunk or Treat Halloween with Leisure Services on October 24th. Michelle Adams asked questions and Lieutenant Vincent Jaunai answered them.

Department Concerns/Good and Welfare

Motion Made by Commissioner Michelle Adams

Commissioner Michelle Adams made a motion to rescind her vote/resolution for the purchase of the sign that cost \$25,000 to find something that is less costly. The motion failed. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai made a motion to table/revisit the sign until another option is found. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheray McDowell.

Discussion and Anticipated Action for hiring District Counsel

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that the Commissioners interviewed Attorney Kevin Deenen from Windsor and Attorney Sydney Schulman from Bloomfield and asked for motion to hire a District Counsel. Commissioner Sheray McDowell made a motion to hire Sydney Schulman as District Counsel; Commissioner Michelle Adams seconded the motion.

Citizens Statements/Comments

The citizens in the audience asked multiple questions in reference to the PPP loan. The Finance Director stated the PPP loan was discussed but there was no vote by the Commissioners to apply for the loan. The Finance Director stated when he applied for the PPP loan that will be forgiven, as long as we follow the guidelines, he was looking out for the best interest of the District. Former Commissioner Jacqueline Massey Greene accused Commissioner Marzouca Jaunai and Finance Director Errol Bartley of stealing the PPP funds.

Payments of Invoices and Vouchers

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked for a motion to pay all invoices and Vouchers. Motion made by Commissioner Sheray McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai. Motion carried unanimously by voice votes.

Anticipated Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matter with district employee and review with Chief

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked for a motion to move into Executive Session. Motion made by Commissioner Michelle Adams, seconded by Commissioner Sheray McDowell. Motion carried unanimous by voice votes to move into Executive Session at 8:02pm with Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Commissioner Michelle Adams, Commissioner Sheray McDowell, Chief Willie Jones and Finance and Administration Director, Errol Bartley

Executive Session Ended at 8:58pm

Adjournment

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Michelle Adams, seconded by Commissioner Sheray McDowell. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Banks
District Clerk/Treasurer

Minutes Approved: July 1, 2021