

Special Meeting of the Blue Hills Fire Commission

1021 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Date: Thursday, July 1st, 2021

Time: 6pm

Call to Order: The special meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca Jaunai at 6:02 PM.

Absent: Commissioner Sheray McDowell

Present: Present at the meeting was Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Commissioner Donna Banks, Fire Chief Willie Jones, Attorney Patrick McHale, Lieutenant Vincent Jaunai, Officer Presley Stewart, Volunteer Firefighter Milton Salmon, Volunteer Firefighter Ted McGhee, Firefighter Elvis Best, Captain Robert Shuler, Firefighter Justin Cusson, Nelson Carter, and Kesone Telfer.

Election of a Board Chair for July 1st, 2021 through June 30th, 2022: Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to nominate Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai as Board Chair for July 1st, 2021 until June 30th, 2022. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai accepted the nomination and asked were there any other nominations, there were none. Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to elect Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai as the Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners from July 1st, 2021 through June 30th, 2022, motion was seconded and carried.

Election of a Vice Chair for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022: Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai made a motion to nominate Commissioner Donna Banks as Board Vice Chair for July 1st, 2021 until June 30th, 2022. Commissioner Donna Banks accepted the nomination and asked were there any other nominations, there were none. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai made motion to elect Commissioner Donna Banks as the Vice Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners from July 1st, 2021 through June 30th, 2022, motion was seconded and carried.

Welcoming Commissioner Donna Banks and Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Taylor:

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai welcomed our newest board members. We welcome Donna Banks, she is very active in our community, she also has been with Blue Hills Fire District for almost four years, we welcome you. We know you bring a lot to the table, and we are happy to have you on board as our Fire Commissioner. Barbara Taylor has been living in the district for 15 years; she has attended several meetings at the Firehouse. She is very active at the Blue Hills Fire District, and we welcome you on behalf of the Commissioners.

Discussion and anticipated action to approve the Minutes of April 27, 2021, October 7th, 2020 and District's Budget Meeting of May 19, 2021: Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021, October 7th, 2020 and District's Budget Meeting of May 19th, 2021, motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion and anticipated action to offer reinstatement to Errol Bartley, as the Blue Hills Fire Department Finance Director, effective immediately with retroactive pay, as of May 3rd, 2021: Commissioner Marzouca Jaunai stated, Errol has been here for 19 years, he has been dedicated to the district, he was let go illegally and we are going to offer reinstatement. Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to reinstate Errol Bartley as Finance Director effective immediately with retroactive pay as of May 3rd, 2021, motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion and anticipated action to hire at least one Bloomfield Police officer at all Board of Fire Commissioners and District meetings: A police report was filed with Bloomfield Police Department due to Former Chief making a statement on May 19th, 2021, after the Budget meeting, stating, that someone in this building is going to **"die"** copies of the police report is available if you would like to review. We take the statement very serious. It is the obligation of the Board of Commissioners to ensure people in the District, Employees, Volunteers and the Community are safe, therefore, we need to hire a police officer for every district and board commissioners meetings. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca Jaunai made a motion to hire at least one Police Officer to be at all Commissioners and District Meetings, motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion and anticipated action to amend the Board of Commissioners By-Laws that were adopted on June 14th, 2021: Two commissioners made some changes to the drafted By-Laws that were distributed to them. There are some good things listed, however, additional changes were made. The changes that were made are listed in red along with the original copy. Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to amend the Board of Commissioners By-Laws that were adopted on June 14th, 2021, motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion and anticipated action to reinstate the PPP loan: The PPP loan became an issue because two commissioners did not understand how the PPP loan works. The PPP loan was sent back to the Bank where we received it from. We are hoping to reinstate the PPP loan because the district needs the money. Commissioner Donna Banks Make a motion to reinstate the PPP loan, motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion and anticipated action on who has the authority to withdraw Funds from the Blue Hills Fire District bank accounts: The PPP loan was withdrawn by, Former Commissioner Michelle Adams and Commissioner Sheray McDowell without notifying Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai and Chief Willie Jones. No one knew about the PPP loan being withdrawn. The only reason Commissioner Ariel Marzouca Jaunai found out about the withdrawal is by checking into the Blue Hills Fire

Department's financial software that is linked the Blue Hills Fire Department's bank account. We verified with the banking institution the originator of the withdrawal of the \$120,456.00 PPP loan. We would like to put in place who has authority to withdraw funds from Blue Hills Fire Department's Bank account. Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion that all three Commissioners along with the Finance Director must be present at the Blue Hills Fire Department's banking institution and must present their IDs in order to process any kind of withdrawal, motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion and anticipated action to purchase an electronic signpost to be installed at the district's headquarters: Commissioner Marzouca Jaunai stated, last year we voted on the sign out front to be replaced, it is over 30 years old. A vendor came out, did a presentation and everyone loved it. Then two Commissioners rescinded their votes. Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to purchase the electronic signpost and have it installed immediately, motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion and Anticipated action to host a COVID 19 vaccine clinic at Blue Hills Fire District headquarters: Commissioner Marzouca Jaunai stated, A COVID 19 vaccine clinic will be held at the Blue Hills Fire Department on Thursdays for approximately six weeks. A tent will be setup, no appointments are needed. Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to host a COVID 19 vaccine clinic at the Blue Hills Fire Department, motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion and Anticipated action on giving access to the district's website to the Office Manager and the Clerk: Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to give Office Manager and Clerk access to the district's website, motion was seconded and carried.

Adjournment: Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Donna Banks. Second, by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14pm

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara Taylor

District Clerk/Treasurer