

## Blue Hills Fire District

1021 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Time: 7pm

**Board Members Present:** Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Commissioner Donna Banks. Also, present were Chief Willie Jones, Director of Finance Errol Bartley, Fire Marshal William Lewis, Firefighter Milton Salmon, Firefighter Fred Nelson, Deputy Fire Marshal Tirrell Cox, Deputy Chief Robert Shuler and Community Outreach Officer, Captain Vincent Jaunai, Lieutenant Ted McGhie and Yvonne Davis (Via Phone).

**Absent:** Commissioner Sheray McDowell.

**Others Present:** Jack Cunningham, Matt Amedeo and Detective Lionel Rodriguez

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Commissioner Marzouca-Jaunai and a moment of silence was observed.

**Discussion and Anticipated action on the presentation by Environmental Systems Corporation Representative, Matt Amedeo and Jack Cunningham on LED Lighting Project.** Matt Amedeo and Jack Cunningham discussed the proposal for the LED Lighting Project. No action was taken.

### **Discussion and Anticipated Action to approve meeting minutes of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Commissioner Marzouca-Jaunai asked for motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Donna Banks, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Marzouca-Jaunai and carried unanimously by voice votes.

**Chief's Report:** Fire Chief, Willie Jones stated there were 50 incidents for the month of September, 390 calls through the end of September. The calls mainly consist of water calls, false alarms due to malfunctions. There were 2 active fires, one at 14 Talcottview Road, where Firefighter suffered a leg injury and is out of work. Another at 769 Blue Hills Avenue. Chief Jones also, stated that the BHFD was flagged down by residents in Hartford, for a fire on 66 Boothbay Street, where they assisted before Hartford Fire Department arrived.

**Training:** Chief Jones stated several members were interested in the specialized classes that is being held at the Litchfield fire school. Several members signed up for some of those classes. In addition, we had an excellent power point presentation on Chimney fires last Monday.

**House Report:** Chief Jones stated RFPs are out for construction and renovations work. The Bulletin Board Monitor will be up and running shortly and will show information about fire calls and responders to the calls.

Lieutenant Ted McGhie stated there's a tree in the back of Station 3 that is starting to uproot, and it needs to be removed. Lieutenant McGhie stated he spoke with Captain Jaunai about the removal of the tree and that he agrees it should be removed.

**Question:** Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked for the cost for the removal of the tree...

**Response:** Lieutenant Ted McGhie stated, there will be no cost to the BHFD, as he will be donating his time to remove the tree and will save the BHFD the cost.

**Fire Marshal's Report:** Fire Marshall Bill Lewis stated they have been extremely busy. The building department just reported they had taken in over \$300,000.00 in permits in the first three months. All the state mandated reports were sent in. At the fire at 14 Talcottview Road, Deputy Fire Marshal Cox, handle it for the FMO. The Bloomfield Police Department has identified that the fire was started by a juvenile and they are handling the case accordingly. Fire Marshal Lewis stated they inspected 23 different Occupancies. There is a plan of action for in place for 31 Tobey Road to become code compliant. Inspected 786 Blue Hills Avenue which is a brand-new beauty salon. It was approved. Fire Marshall Lewis stated during the past month, the FMO completed 27 Inspections, 10 plan reviews and 2 fire investigations.

**Director of Finance and Administration's Report:** Finance Director Errol Bartley stated that, we have completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> month in the Fiscal year. We currently have \$2 million in the operating account and Money Market Account, to date we have collected \$1.9 million, with a difference of \$97, 000.00 of the budgeted amount to be collected. We spent \$526,000.00 as of September 30, 2021. There were no questions for the Finance Director.

**Community Outreach Report:** Captain Vincent Jaunai reported on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Community Outreach were present at two events. One was hosted by First Cathedral and the second was at Lowes. October 5, 2021 BHFD participated in fire prevention week at First Cathedral for 25 children. Captain Jaunai stated Community outreach will be participating in Bethel AME Church fire prevention presentation on October 8, 2021 for 35 children. BHFD is invited to a grab and go Breakfast for First Responders on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 355 Park Avenue. Captain Jaunai stated BHFD is presently putting together an open house to be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021 from 10am – 2pm.

**Discussion and Anticipated Action to process reimbursement to the Town of Bloomfield in the Amount of \$72,119.42 for reduction of assessment for Church Home of Hartford (Seabury Nursing Home) that created overpayment to the BHFD for the following years: 2018 = \$9,274.82, 2019 = \$9,957.50, 2020 = \$26,443.55 and 2021 = \$26,443.55:** Commissioner Donna Banks made motion to table discussion until we hear from Attorney Sydney Schulman in reference to verifying with Church Home of Hartford (Seabury Nursing Home) to be credited for overpayment for the years listed above, for payment owed for tax year 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marzouca-Jaunai and carried unanimously by voice votes.

**Discussion and Anticipated Action on BHFD Holiday events:** Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to give each active member a \$75.00 gift card for Thanksgiving and host a Holiday dinner event for Christmas along with a \$75.00 gift card for all members who attended the event. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marzouca-Jaunai and carried unanimously by voice votes.

**Department Concerns/Good Welfare:** Yvonne Davis stated she is still working on contents for the website. Deputy Fire Marshal Gerald S. Campbell will be retiring effective January 23, 2022. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated Fire Symposium is back. The dates for the 2022 Fire Symposium is November 10<sup>th</sup> – November 13<sup>th</sup>, in Clear Water Florida. She encouraged Chief Jones to take advantage of the opportunity. She also stated that the Commissioners are allowed to attend.

**Citizen Statements/Comments:** None

**Payment of Invoices and Vouchers:** Commissioner Banks made a motion to pay all invoices and vouchers. Motion seconded and carried.

**Discussion and Anticipated Action to move into Executive session with employee to discuss personnel matters:** Commissioner Donna Banks made a motion to move into Executive session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marzouca Jaunai. Motion carried

Commissioner Banks and Commissioner Marzouca Jaunai went into Executive session at 8:05 pm. Executive session ended at 8:32 pm.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Commissioner Banks to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marzouca Jaunai. Motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Barbara Taylor**

**District Clerk/Treasurer**

**Approved November 3, 2021**