

BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS

MONTHLY MEETING

3/15/16 @ 4:00PM

Present: Chief Peter Shemeth, Retired Capt. Dick Kelly, Retired Deputy Chief Larry Thomas, Capt. Geoff Freeman, Asst. Chief Andrew Kelly, Deputy Chief Alex Schaeffer, Retired Senior Capt. Charlie Smith, Retired Asst. Chief Scott Ellis, Lt. Kara Shemeth, FF Trevor Scanlon and Anita Billings. Paramedic Mike Klimek was also present.

Meeting commenced at 4:00pm

Reviewed and approved minutes from January meeting as there was no meeting in February
Reviewed budget balances

Old Business:

Budget:

- Town meeting articles have been posted on the website. They combined our 2 articles for the Special Town Meeting for vehicle and building maintenance reimbursement. We also have a joint article with the PD. Annual Town Meeting articles are for Ambulance SUV, PPE and new ambulance.

Vehicles, Equipment & Maintenance:

- 230 has arrived. Lift kit and new tires are on it. We plan to raise the water tank up so we can put tools underneath it. Deputy Chief Schaeffer said for the amount of money we had, we should be really happy with what we've been able to accomplish. We do have a mounted spare on it, just in case we run something over.
- The Chief picked up his vehicle on Friday. MHQ messed up the graphics and had to fix it. There is water in the LED light already. The Chief has put a call into MHQ. The inside looks good.
- Engine 2 – still having alarm issues. Truck has never been regenerated. We don't know if that has anything to do with all the problems. A while back Deputy Chief Schaeffer had asked Jeff at Bulldog to see if anyone would be interested in buying the truck. At the time there were a couple of bites from \$160,000 up to \$190,000. If we sell, Bulldog will take it as a trade in value and we will have no liability or responsibility for it any longer. We are way over our maintenance budget; we have spent \$29,163 since October 2014 on Engine 2. If we get rid of Engine 2, our next truck would have a 5 years bumper to bumper coverage and would have money in our budget for maintenance on other things. Deputy Chief Schaeffer said we have \$260,000 on town floor already for a new ambulance. We've held off on it before and mileage has been held down because of the use of E91. We could flip and purchase fire truck this year and do the ambulance next year.
- ***A motion was made to amend warrant article to read "purchase a fire truck" instead of ambulance. Motion was seconded and approved by all members present.***
- Asst. Chief Kelly said it would be nice if we could meet with the Selectmen and explain what is going on. We don't want the information to get out to the public.

New Business:

Vehicles, Equipment & Maintenance:

- The Chief said the front bay doors are peeling already. Capt. Maciel said he would take a look at them.

- Retired Capt. Kelly said we need to start thinking about purchasing a washer and dryer for the station. It has been proven that firefighters have gotten cancer from carcinogens and hazards on gear. Estimated cost for washer and dryer is \$10,000.
- Asst. Chief Kelly expressed that people have to come back to the station after a fire to help clean up. He will bring it up at the next officer's meeting.
- Asst. Chief Kelly asked if we were going to designate a call number for the old pickup that went over to Chappy. It was decided that 240 would be an easy number to remember. Peter Wells said they would pay for truck repairs (exhaust). Asst. Chief Kelly also spoke with the Chappy crew and expressed how important it is for them to communicate over the radio when something happens over there.
- Echo 90 will be on Chappy while the ferry ramp is shut down for the week. We will utilize one of Oak Bluffs' spare ambulances for backup.

Training:

- Chief Shemeth attended the Chief's conference in Worcester has month. He got a chance to meet and talk with several Chiefs from the Cape. Classes were excellent and he got a lot of great information.
- The 2 MFA classes on the Island were very informative. Many strategies have changed for fire suppression and there is actual proven science behind it.
- Next Monday we are scheduled to do a drill in the #7 building at the Harbor View.
- Chief Shemeth is checking in a demo that we could possibly use for training.

Personnel:

- Lt. Shemeth indicated her term on the Board is up and she will not be seeking reappointment. She said it has been a pleasure, and that Firefighter Scanlon is here as an interested candidate to take over her position.
- Asst. Chief Kelly asked what is going on with the hiring for Paramedic Cummins' position. The Chief said it is still ongoing and we need to meet again with the Town. Deputy Chief Schaeffer explained how we are covering the hours. He also explained his reasoning for wanting to hire from within and not from off Island. The history of this department shows that the best employees have been those who have come up through the system. He explained that State rules have changed since the last hiring when Paramedic Cooney's position was advertised and why a paramedic was required then versus now.
- The Chief commended Deputy Chief Schaeffer for maintaining the schedule, as it can be a nightmare.
- Retired Asst. Chief Ellis reported that it would cost \$2,000 to add liability to his personal insurance policy to cover fire investigations. He would like to help, but the cost is excessive. He asked if he could be covered by the department under the BOE. The Chief said he would look into it. The Fire Marshall's office really does not want to come down here to investigate unless it's necessary.
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer asked Asst. Chief Ellis if he would be looking for compensation for his time while investigating, and his answer was yes.

The new Class A uniforms came in and most of the members have picked theirs up. New patches and flags are available for old uniforms. Francois wants them all brought in at the same time. This is being covered for EFA.

Motion to adjourn 5:30pm.