

BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS

MONTHLY MEETING

8/16/16 @ 4:00PM

Present: Chief Peter Shemeth, Deputy Chief Alex Schaeffer, Asst. Chief Andrew Kelly, Retired Capt. Dick Kelly, Retired Senior Captain Charlie Smith, EMS Rep Trevor Scanlon, Retired Asst. Chief Scott Ellis and Anita Billings.

Meeting called to order at 4:00pm by Chief Shemeth

Reviewed and approved minutes from the July meeting
Reviewed budget balances

Old Business:

Vehicles, Equipment & Maintenance:

- 93 - Deputy Chief Schaeffer distributed pictures to review. Hopefully it will be ready next week. We will still have to configure and install radios etc. when it gets here.
- 90 – Deputy Chief Schaeffer met with Mark Hooper today. Many items were discussed. He agreed to \$10,000 trade versus Greenwood's trade of \$16,000. He also agreed to give us 2016 chassis instead of 2017 which puts us at the top of the build date list. We also will save money by purchasing light bar directly from MHQ, which Hooper agreed to as well.
- Radios – In light of the communications meetings, the Sheriff has bought into the P25 federal standard and agrees that's where we should be headed. He is committed to seeking out grant funding. It would roughly be \$120,000 for the whole Island. We might be looking to put on Town floor for our portion. From these meetings it appears that Bardwell has not worked in our best interest in the past, and they are reluctant to move forward with modern technology. Because of this, everything will be done with RFP's moving forward.
- Chief Rose asked if they could use our repeater for Illumination and Fireworks. Bardwell will move it to their water tower and will return it after.
- Pagers – Deputy Chief Schaeffer sent out pagers to be testing. Out of 17 pagers, 6 came back from Utility Communications and the rest will have to go for further testing. Chargers and batteries have been ordered. We now have 5 extra chargers. Firefighter Anthony Gould is a HAM radio operator. He has the potential to really help us out, but we need to give him guidance as to how things should be done.

Training:

- Asst. Chief Kelly reported that they did ventilation and worked with new meters.
- Asst. Chief Kelly updated everyone on rehab procedures and that it's only 1 bottle now. It would be nice to bring the rehab bus down to practice.
- EMS Rep. Scanlon suggested that EMT's receive a stipend for rehab practices like firefighters do for practices. ***A motion was made to give a stipend of \$60 to EMT's who participate in practices. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously by all members present.***
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer asked about the long term goals with equipment in the trailer. Should we give it to Oak Bluffs on loan?

The Chief reported on high level of alarm calls due to the weather and humidity. There was discussion of getting the Chappy firefighters up to speed on alarm response and use of the meters. The Chief will talk to Capt. Wells. Asst. Chief Kelly stated there is EFA money available for more meters. Deputy Chief Schaeffer

stated there are many options and we don't necessarily need to buy more expensive meters. Also there would have to be training on them. The Chiefs will look into meters and options based on our needs.

Fire Investigator:

- The Chief looked back in the minutes regarding the status of Asst. Chief Ellis when he retired. At the time there was talk about possibly moving someone up already in the department, but there didn't seem much of a need.
- Retired Asst. Chief Ellis asked about creating a position within the department for him, which would cut out the insurance cost, but the Chief stated that the Board voted against creating a new position back when he retired.
- It's a lot of money to add to the budget with so few calls requiring investigation. The Chief requested that the decision be tabled so he can talk to the insurance company and get a better take on it. All members present agreed.

OB Fireworks:

- We will have a truck covering the OB station, an ambulance in the park and 267 will be patrolling as well.

New Business:

EFA Pancake Breakfast is August 21st from 8am – 11am. The Chief contacted the White House rep about moving communications vehicle during the breakfast.

Compliance and Enforcement:

- Jake from the State Fire Marshall's office came down and went over several buildings in Town. The Chief discussed all the deficiencies with the new building at 222 Upper Main Street.
- Asst. Chief Kelly asked about The Boathouse. Apparently there are blocked exits and alarms have been taken offline. The Chief stated he will bring Dave Beaudin from the Fire Marshall's office there when he comes on August 26th.
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer expressed frustration that we are not doing anything about it, and that we should be enforcing the code.

Meeting adjourned 5:15pm.