

BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS
MONTHLY MEETING
9/15/15 @ 4:00PM

Present: Chief Peter Shemeth, Deputy Chief Alex Schaeffer, Asst. Chief Andrew Kelly, Retired Deputy Chief Larry Thomas, Retired Capt. Richard Kelly, Retired Asst. Chief Scott Ellis, Capt. Geoff Freeman, EMS Rep Kara Shemeth and Anita Billings. Paramedic Mike Klimek was also present.

Meeting commenced at 4:05pm

Review and approved minutes from August meeting
Review budget balances

Old Business:

Budget:

- Expenses are way up this year; we need to keep an eye on spending.
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer suggested a call to FinCom to go over increases above and beyond out budget.
- We have pump testing coming up, each truck is roughly \$500-\$700.
- The Chief spoke with Gail Avakian at the FinCom to be put on the agenda for next month's meeting. It would be nice if the committee could meet here to see our operation.

Building, Equipment & Maintenance:

- Bay Doors are painted, they look great !
- Engine 2 – intake heater is causing alarm. It's a \$1500 part and very time consuming to install. When weather gets cold, it may have a hard time starting if left outside.
- Chief Shemeth said Deputy Chief Schaeffer has done a tremendous job working on it.
- Furnace room is cleaned up. The Chief had no idea the cost to change the piping was going to be so much. \$5,300 bill from Fortes.

Personnel:

- Chief Shemeth met with Michael Brown. He's working a lot and knows he doesn't have the time.
- The Chief explained to him that this has been an ongoing issue and suggested a leave of absence. When he has more time, he can always come back.
- The Chief talked with the Personnel Board. Marilyn is away for 2 weeks but will put the Fire Department on the agenda for next month. Let's see how receptive they are about changing from firefighter to firefighter/paramedic.

New Business:

Accountability

- Island Wide Accountability policy to be completed next month.
- New tags have been made. Green card is good to go in building and red card is not. Colors are universal with all Towns.

Training

- FF1 has started. We have 4 attending from Edgartown and 10-12 total. The DCFCA didn't want to continue with the class if we had less than 10 students because of high costs, so it's good we have enough participation.
- Deputy Chief Schaeffer said there's a class at Stowe about understanding ISO, someone should go.
- The Chief reported we have finally been getting notices for houses to train in from building office. Deputy Chief Schaeffer suggested we also be in contact with the Dukes County Housing Authority.

Personnel:

- Capt. Sylvia sat down with the Chiefs. He is going to police academy for 6 months. He will stay on during the transition but will take a leave of absence during that time.
- He will be stepping down as Captain. We will have to do some shuffling around with personnel.
- We will need to have an officers meeting next week to work things out.

First Responder drivers

- Deputy Chief Schaeffer thought it was illegal for first responders to drive ambulance, but new State guidelines say first responders can drive now.
- Once patient is in the ambulance, proper staffing applies.

Chairs

- The Chief has received a request for new chairs for the back room. Average cost is roughly \$400 a piece. Deputy Chief Schaeffer said he's hesitant to buy from Amazon or online without trying them out. All members present were in agreement to buy new chairs.
- Asst. Chief Kelly suggested asking EFA to buy them. John Dropick said EFA needs to spend more money on FD. Asst. Chief Kelly to bring it up at next EFA meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4:45pm.