

MINUTES
Litchfield Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS
November 15, 2012 Meeting
Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road Bantam, CT

Members Present: Chairmen John Campbell, Paul Parsons, Doug Hatstat, Francine Spencer, Teresa Berry, Sam Kinkade

Also present: Fire Marshal Thomas O'Hare,

Chairmen John Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by D. Hatstat and seconded by P. Parsons to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2012 meeting. Passed

Jack Hodges of the Northfield Fire Company speaking as a member not as an official wanted to advise the board that due to a \$5,000 bill for emergency work that had to be done on Engine 1 the operating budget has been severely depleted. He was wondering if the Board would intercede for them with the First Selectmen in recouping these costs. He explained that Northfield has approached him but they were denied. Commissioner Campbell asked that they get him all the particulars together and he would approach the First Selectmen, with the understanding there is no guarantee they will be made whole, but the attempt will be made on their behalf. Jack also asked about the reduction of the Northfield request for \$600,000 for the replacement of Engine 2 to \$500,000. It was explained that there is a town wide specification for this type of vehicle and Litchfield Fire Company is about to open bids for a unit to be placed in service at their House. The amount of these bids will drive whether Northfield will need additional monies. Also the Capital Committee will most likely spread these costs over two budget years.

As a commission request, Commission asked that the commission reschedule their meetings for the Second Thursday of Each Month rather than the Third Thursday. After discussion a motion was made by T. Berry and Seconded by S. Kinkade that all commission meetings be held on the Second Thursday of each month. Passed. The Fire marshal will put the calendar together and submit it to the Town Clerk.

Budgets – Department and Capital – Due to technical issue Northfield did not have their budget for review by the Commission. It will be presented along with the other departments for the December meeting. There was discussion on the fact that in order for East Litchfield to recoup the monies expended for the design and engineering for repairs on their house a Capital request must be submitted and approved by the Capital Committee. After much discussion a motion was made by S. Kinkade and seconded by T. Berry to submit an addendum to the Capital Budget requests an amount of \$20,000 for design and engineering and construction project for the East Litchfield Fire Station. Passed. The Board requested that the Fire Chiefs look into pooling their purchases for equipment and services so a better price can be received from vendors. FM O'Hare explained that under the Fire Commission expenses he posted the actual expenses for

Paramedic intercept as well as the actual costs for Fire Fighter medicals. Discussions will be held in the future on ways to trim the costs to the town for Paramedic intercept costs.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal O’Hare reported that things are busy in the office with the majority of the time spent on the last Storm. He wanted to commend all the Emergency Services for the outstanding work done by all.

Physicals – D. Hatstat asked if a person on workers comp can do more than his limit on the original workers comp. The board stated that a person can only do what our doctors have cleared him for. If he is only cleared for administrative duties that is all he can do till the original workers case is cleared through his primary employment and reexamined by our physicians. A case has come up in a department where a candidate had completed the background check and had completed their physical. It was the opinion of our doctor that without further testing this person could and would only be cleared to the Fire Police level. The question arose as to what the Town of Litchfield would provide as to other required tests. After much discussion it was agreed that the Town would provide an entry level physical to all candidates and our physicians would at that time classify as to the level of activity that candidate can participate in, this will allow the candidate to apply to the department, if a candidate can upgrade their classification through further testing this would have to be done at that candidates expense and resubmitted to our physicians for further evaluation. Further discussion will be held with our medical people, the Chiefs of service and the Board of Fire Commissioners to review and make uniform the requirements to becoming a member of any department.

EMS- No report

Communications Chairman Campbell read a letter from the Litchfield High School Forensic class on a portion of the class that was taught by the Fire Marshal.

With No other business a motion was made by T. Berry and seconded by F. Spencer to adjourn the meeting. Passed 8:05 PM

Board of Fire Commissioners and EMS

Date