

MINUTES
Litchfield Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS
September 11, 2014 7:00 PM
E. Litchfield Fire House, 365 E. Litchfield Rd, Litchfield CT

Members Present: Chairman John Campbell, Francine Spencer, Teresa Berry, Douglas Hatstat, Aaron Lanthier

Members Absent: Paul Parsons

Call Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes –August 14, 2014

T. Berry moved to approve the minutes, D. Hatstat seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Request

None

Commission Requests

None

Budgets – Department, Capital & Operating Budgets

The Chair asked everyone to begin working on their budgets for the next meeting. He asked A. Lanthier to work with Ed Evers to look at town wide capital budget numbers for SCBA numbers so they can be adjusted if need be.

The Chair explained that the requested \$20,000 transfer asked for last month by Bantam Fire Company for the ADA compliant restrooms at the Fire House was granted by the Board of Selectmen. Bantam would like a recommendation from the fire Commission to the Board of Selectman to hire Burlington Construction for \$164,781 (the low bidder). \$20,000 will be town funds and \$160,000 will come from a STEAP Grant. T. Berry moved the motion, A. Lanthier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Rogers was present. He explained that he met with the Chiefs on Monday and discussed apparatus update lists and emergency plans for the schools. They hope to meet again in November to discuss the vehicle replacement list.

He updated the commission on his inspection progress so far. He has met with all the schools principals and the superintendent.

He is working on getting the Everbridge system switched over so that he is the administrator.

Discussion on department physicals ensued. The Fire Marshal stated that he met with the St. Francis representative and would like to get clarification on several issues. The first was putting actual language in the town policy stating that all interior fire fighters need to get their physical from St. Francis. The commission stated that they did previously approve this and they approved accepting career fire fighters physicals from other providers, provided they are current. The Fire Marshal will formulate language to be inserted into the Policy for next month's meeting for the Commission to review.

He stated that the non-compliance window should be changed from 6 months to 3 months. So that non-compliant members do not fall out of cycle with the rest of the department. All members should be getting their baseline physical at St. Francis that will consist of blood work for drug testing. It was agreed that chest x-rays and initial blood work be done on new members and that when the budget allowed, other testing might be performed.

D. Hatstat moved to change the town physical policy from a 6 month grace period to a 3 month period to allow members to obtain their physical, F. Spencer seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The policy will become effective with the next cycle for each department.

Update on Department Physicals

See above

Any EMS Business that needs to be discussed

F. Spencer stated that she heard that Bantam has received approval to bill. The Chair will verify this and report next month.

Communications

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Chief Berry was present to discuss bid proposals for a new truck. He stated that 10 bid packets went out, 4 proposals and one letter of no bid was received. They spent the last month going through all the bids to make sure they were comparing apples to apples. The four bids are as follows: Spartan = \$679,451, Marrion = \$732,892, Smeal = \$648,867 and Rosenbauer = \$668,111. He explained that in answer to questions that have been asked regarding this truck costing more than Litchfield's truck there are several reasons. One being that the bid for Litchfield's truck was received more than two years ago. Simply waiting two years time has added at least a \$60,000 cost increase and two; this truck has added features that the Litchfield truck does not have. This truck will have a foam cell on the truck to handle incidents that arise on Rt 8. The cost of the foam system is approximately \$15,000. There is a 15kw generator on the truck which is roughly \$30,000 and a light tower which is about \$37,000 and about \$10,000 in equipment costs for new ladders (which replace a ladder purchased in 1958), suction hoses and such. Smeal is the low bidder on the project and the fire company would like the commission to approve this bid. Discussion ensued regarding the costs of the extra equipment.

Doug Hatstat moved to authorize Northfield Fire Company to go the Board of Selectmen for approval to spend \$648,867 to purchase a truck from Smeal. A savings to the Town of \$358,625 will come out of a grant that was obtained by Northfield Fire Company and \$290,242 will come out of existing capital, which has \$500,000 in it, leaving a balance in the capital account of \$209,758, Aaron Lanthier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

T. Berry moved to adjourn F. Spencer seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



**John Campbell, Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS**

Date 10/9/2014