

MINUTES
Litchfield Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS
March 17, 2011 7:00 PM
Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road Bantam, CT

Members Present: Chairman John Campbell, Sam Kinkade, Francine Spencer, Doug Hatstat, Teresa Berry

Members Absent: Paul Parsons

Also present: Fire Marshal Thomas O'Hare

Chairman J. Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by S. Kinkade and seconded by D. Hatstat to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting. Passed

Public Requests/Comments – None

Commission Requests – None

SCBA Replacement

Chairman J. Campbell stated that a committee will study the needs and prepare a specification for the replacement of the SCBA's for the fire departments. Bantam is in the process of completing their specifications for the station compressor. East Litchfield will be next in having their station compressor replaced.

Report from Truck spec committee – None

Budgets – Department and Capital

The budget was presented to the Board of Finance March 14th by the First Selectman. The BOF did not have much issue with the fire department portion. With the cost of energy increasing the departments will have to keep a close eye on these portions of their budgets. There was discussion by the BOF on pensions both employee and volunteer. The Pension Committee needs to start meeting again and examine the pension that we currently maintain and be proactive to possible changes.

Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal O'Hare brought the Board information on the possible changes being made to departments and commissions on the state level. The fire services were concerned that the Fire Academy would be combined with POST as a single department and a proposal was presented by the fire services, the police services and emergency management services that a new division would be headed by Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and have each of the following remain as a separate entity under that umbrella, The Fire Commission, POST, Office of Education and Data Management and OCET. At the time of the meeting this proposal was still under consideration. FM O'Hare informed the Board that Litchfield would soon be activating the New town website, hopefully by April 1st, and he presented the board with their page. He explained that the design is able to be changed and can be changed if members wanted to add content. He suggested that a short paragraph be added to explain exactly what the function of the board is. FM O'Hare will start the process of going through the commissions in April to get a fire pond established on the Crampton property at 134 Whiskers Lane.

Department Physicals

Bantam Fire has started their physicals this past Monday and there were no issues with the new system a report was given to Chairman J. Campbell of all the members who have received their physical and those that have made future appointments. There was a long discussion on department members under the age of 18 and the physical requirements. The members under 18 in the fire service (Junior Corp) are required by most departments to have a physical by a private physician prior to joining that department. The ambulance corps does not have this requirement as these members are considered to be full members upon joining and the only restriction on them is that they cannot drive the vehicle. This was felt

by the majority of the board a reason that these members also get a physical as we do for ambulance personnel presently. F. Spencer stated that there are approximately 16 – 20 ambulance members in this class. Chairman J. Campbell will talk Roxanne Carroll on our insurance requirements, then to the First Selectman as this requirement will definitely impact the budget. Chairman J. Campbell requested that Junior physicals be put as an agenda item for the next meeting.

EMS Business – Nothing to report

Pension Committee – Nothing to report

Communications – Chairman J. Campbell asked that a letter be sent to the chiefs of service inviting them to the April 21st meeting for the purpose of discussions SCBA and pensions and physicals.

With no other business to bring before the Board a motion was made by T. Berry seconded by F. Spencer to adjourn the meeting at 7:59PM. Passed

John Campbell, Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS

Date