

MINUTES
Special Meeting
Litchfield Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS
August 11, 2022 – 5:00 PM
Litchfield Fire Department
258 West St, Litchfield CT

Members Present: Michael Castelli, Sean Fogarty, Jack Hodges, Fire Marshal C. Wilcox. John Campbell by cell phone, Gary Shuhi arrived at end of Fire Marshal report.

Members Absent: Jon Tarrant

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman J. Campbell opened the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

2. Public Requests/Comments

None

3. Commission Requests

None

4. Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2022

Motion made to approve by J. Hodges, seconded S. Fogarty, vote was unanimous.

5. Budgets – Department, Capital & Operating Budgets, Insurance

Capital Budgets – Bid opened Wednesday, 08/03/22 at 2:00 p.m. by Naomi Boccio of Public Works with LVA Chief John Pudlinski, LVA Chief Medical Officer M. Castelli and First Selectwoman Denise Raap present for a Demers EX Sprinter Type II Ambulance or equivalent. The single bid received from Bulldog Fire Apparatus, 86 Stockhouse Road, Bozrah, CT for a \$169,445.00 Demers EX Sprinter Type II Ambulance satisfies all specifications and was accepted by Chief J. Pudlinski. Ambulance will be stock with the exception of Onspots and is identical to current town ambulance. Ambulance ordered now has an expected 18-24 month delivery time. A motion to authorized LVA to purchase this ambulance with \$120,000.00 coming from capital and \$49,445.00 being LVA responsibility was made by J. Hodges, seconded by S. Fogarty and vote was unanimous with none opposed.

Insurance – The VIS Insurance Policy 195304 with a planned start date of September 1, 2022 and a yearly premium of \$10,288 previously presented at the July 14 meeting cannot be signed today as expected. Someone within town hall made the executive decision to inform the board of selectman this was for duplicate insurance and to cut this budgeted item without notifying fire commission. E. Callahan was asked if someone was hurt at a fundraiser or drafted from the streets for fire assistance or will a firefighter or EMS killed while performing their duties would have their children's education paid? All answers were "I think so". Commission is looking for written clarification from CIRMA to specify exactly what is and is not covered. If it is determined that coverage is not duplicate, commission will work to reinstate \$8,000 appropriated as budgeted for VIS Insurance Policy 195304 ASAP.

Departments – Northfield air conditioning system has cracks in lines and is only running at 50%. Repair costs vs. remaining life expectance are being investigated. As system is also used for building's heat and department is an emergency shelter, repairs may be a capital emergency.

6. Committee Reports

Pension Retention Committee – J. Campbell is still waiting for numbers from Bantam and Litchfield. Data will be adjusted as some members serve multiple departments.

7. Fire Marshal Report

It was noted this agenda item will be moved up for future meetings. C. Wilcox is working with LCD to get CAD set up. Offer to share software was extended to J. Worthington in Building Department. By making him an approved user, there is only a one-time \$250.00 set up fee. Since FM office was originally excluded from proposed food truck ordinance, C. Wilcox met with D. Raap. Under fire prevention code, food truck permits require an annual inspection. Fees will be handled by First Selectman's Office. Burn injury forms were sent to LVA as any burns to 5% of body, upper airway or from fireworks must be reported to local fire marshal and OEDM within 48 hours. In July, 26 inspections were completed. School inspections scheduled for August. Starting this year, all schools not Litchfield public will be charged \$35 for every inspected building. There are several dry hydrants in town. He is working with Social Services to get fire prevention to the elderly. Since last meeting, there were 4 fire incidents, 12 open burn permits, no blasting permits and no firework incidents. He is still identifying truck equipment and tools needed. In October, LVA is welcome to join in fire prevention at schools. [G. Shuhi has now joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.]

8. Update on Department Physicals - Review updated department rosters

- a) Bantam FD due in April
- b) E. Litchfield FD due in May
- c) Northfield FD due in June
- d) Litchfield FD due in November
- e) LVA due in November

Physicals are being done at St. Francis in Waterbury. E. Callahan, J. Campbell and Jeanine are working on a more convenient Torrington location.

9. Any EMS Business that needs to be discussed

None

10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

Need to develop comprehensive specs for a new fire marshal truck. As town has always taken care of FM truck, commission to make recommendation to Public Works and R. Alexe. When current FM truck is retired, vehicle should be retained for usage of deputy marshal acting on behalf of the town. S. Fogarty put in an insurance claim for gear covered in linseed oil during a van fire. Spartan truck being built had three 7% increases in last 4 ½ months. East Litchfield \$700,000 truck would be over \$800,000 if ordered today. Litchfield's ladder truck needs to be reevaluated. Litchfield apparatus ramp bumped from last year to this year has a placeholder of \$250,000. There is \$10,000 set aside for fire ponds. Northfield truck placeholder is for \$750,000 but still a year away from ordering engine. Could be 2-3 price increases and over \$900,000 before now 31 year old truck is replaced. Oil and electric prices have gone up. J. Campbell is checking with N. Boccio that winter oil prices are locked in.

12. Adjournment

At 5:48 p.m., J. Hodges moved to adjourn, S. Fogarty seconded and all unanimously approved.



John Campbell, Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS



Date