

MINUTES
Litchfield Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS
February 8, 2024 – 5:00 PM
Litchfield Fire Department
258 West St ▪ Litchfield CT

Members Present: John Campbell, Michael Castelli, Jack Hodges, James Koser, Jon Torrant (arrived at 5:08), Fire Marshal Dave Rogers.

Members Absent: Sean Fogarty.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman J. Campbell opened the meeting at 5:00 pm.

2. Public Requests/Comments

None.

3. Commission Requests

None.

4. Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2024

J. Koser moved to approve the 01/11/24 minutes, M. Castelli seconded, there was no discussion and vote to approve was unanimous.

5. Fire Marshal Report

For January, there were 37 inspections and 15 Open Burning permits. DEEP issued a Burning Permit for brush to be burned at the Recycling Center. A blasting permit was issued for Silicon Ranch Solar Farm on Wilson Road. Office received complaints about this project well before the blaster came in for the permit. (J. Torrant arrived here at 5:08) The office investigated fires at 199 Town Farm Road, 61 East Litchfield Road South and at West Shore Seafood on Bantam Lake Road. All three were determined to be accidental. NFIRS were submitted to FEMA. A committee is working on the Emergency Reporting replacement. Office would like another camera for the Ladder Truck.

6. Committee Reports

None.

7. Budgets – Department, Capital & Operating Budgets

Capital - Northfield Fire Chief R. Crichton was on speaker phone to discuss two bids received for the replacement fire hoses. Bid from Fire Tech & Safety of New England in MA was \$51,179.90. Bid from Firematic Supply Company in NY was \$54,112.00. Department has reservations regarding doing business with a new vendor since no town fire departments have any prior business experience or purchases with Fire Tech & Safety. There are additional concerns regarding Fire Tech & Safety being located north of Boston at the New Hampshire border and the amount of time it would take to resolve warranty issues. All departments have a good, long time business relationship with Firematic. Any problems with equipment, Firematic arrives the next day and has excellent customer service. Agreement will be for the town to pay \$50,000 for the equipment and Northfield will pay the balance. Chief Crichton supports accepting the 5.7% higher bid from Firematic. J. Hodges motioned to authorize price per bid documents of \$50,000 from capital fund to accept the Firematic Supply Company bid, J. Koser seconded, there was no discussion and vote to approve was unanimous.

Budget increases: NFD – 3.06% or \$3,364, BFD – 3 % or \$3,947, LFD – 2.57% or \$3,000, ELFD – 5.93% or \$3,500. Combined fire department increase total is 3.31% or \$13,811. LVA – revised to 28.57% or \$10,000 and NEMS, BEMS and LEMS are all 0%. Combined EMS total increase is now 12.86% or \$10,000. Fire commission –medical/physicals – 36.84% or \$7,000, background checks – 0%, VFIR insurance - decrease of 9.2% or - \$712, tires – 37.50% decrease or - \$3,300 and turnout gear – 82.10% or \$13,300 increase. Combined fire commission increase is 30.16% or \$16,288. Fire Marshal office – 5.76% or \$7,032. Emergency management is 2.29% or \$396. Firetruck tire replacement – only LFD Engine 2 for \$5,500 is scheduled. Total Fire & EMS draft revised budget:

	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>%</u>	
Fire Companies	\$431,170	\$13,811	3.31%	
Commission	<u>\$ 70,288</u>	<u>\$16,288</u>	<u>30.16%</u>	
Total Fire Protection (2202)	\$501,458	\$30,099	6.39%	
EMS	\$ 81,710	\$10,000	12.86%	Paramedic intercepts
Fire Marshal (2201)	\$129,206	\$ 7,032	5.76%	Salaries & software
Emergency Management (2401)	<u>\$ 17,711</u>	<u>\$ 396</u>	<u>2.29%</u>	
Total	\$730,085	\$47,527	6.96%	

8. Update on Department Physicals

- 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

Many interior firefighters are behind on their physicals. Point is not to punish but to protect the firefighter, chiefs, department and town. J. Hodges received complete roster list from FM office. Will ask L. Bachetti to send lists out to all departments.

9. Any EMS Business that needs to be discussed

None.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

None.

12. Adjournment

J. Tarrant moved to adjourn at 5:27 pm, M. Castelli seconded and vote was unanimous.

John Campbell, Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners & EMS

Date