

**Town of Suffield**



**Board of Fire Commissioners Minutes**

**Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting**

July 13, 2021

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

Attendance: P. Christian; V. Mathieu; J. Bucior; J. Caron; E. O'Hurley  
T. Plakias absent

Others in attendance: Dan Vindigni, Chief Flynn, Margaret Van Cott. Few public attendees.

J. Caron made a motion to amend the agenda to add for discussion to name Zack Louis as Fire Marshal. P. Christian seconded the motion. All in favor-5-0.

**Secretary's Report**

No report

**Minutes & Correspondences:**

Approval of minutes from June 8, 2021. Minutes are approved, motion made by V. Mathieu and seconded by J. Caron. E. O'Hurley abstained from voting as he was absent. All in favor. 4-0.

Approval of the minutes from May 11, 2021 and special meeting of June 15, 2021. V. Mathieu made a motion to approve May 11, 2021. E. O'Hurley abstained. Discussion of who was in attendance for the May 11, 2021 meeting. J. Caron seconded the motion to approve the May 11, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. 4-0 E. O'Hurley abstained.

June 15, 2021 meeting minutes will be approved at the September meeting.

**Correspondences:**

Nothing

**Financials:**

Completed the year 2020-2021-Deficit-\$77,686-regarding payroll and scheduling. Individual accounts that are over-have been over all year. Food Supply-over-party for Captain Thibedeau. If we did not have the overage in payroll-we would have been up \$5,000. Building accounts-balance out at the end. Big hit on station 3-generator issue. Ran for 4 days with no one knowing it was running. Used the entire propane tank. All has been repaired. 2021-2022 start up budget numbers have been shared. P. Christian asked what was the overage at station 3? Chief stated it was \$3,300

P. Christain moved to approve the financials. V. Mathieu seconded the motion. All in favor. 5-0.

**Calls & Activities:**

59 calls for the month of June.  
Mondays and Saturdays are the busiest days.  
Calls with power lines and motor vehicle accidents. Nothing out of the ordinary.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Old Business:**

First Responders Application-Chief stated he is only waiting on the First Selectman. She has all the information; she needs to review it and sign off on it. Once that is done, we can move forward. All other chiefs in town have done what needs to be done.

Discussion of the frustration of waiting on Melissa Mack.

Fire Marshal-posting needs to be done. Chief gave them all the information to post the job. The Commission can vote for the interim position at this time. Chief is asking the board to help "validate" the position and how much it is needed.

J. Caron made the motion to appoint Zack Louis is to interim Fire Marshal until a full time Fire Marshal is hired. V. Mathieu seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Discussion of the need of a full-time fire marshal. All towns around us have full time fire marshals-many full-time marshals to one town. We need a full-time fire marshal in Suffield.

J. Caron motioned that the Fire Commission approves and justifies having a full-time fire marshal in Suffield. V. Mathieu seconded the motion. All in favor. 5-0.

The position needs to be filled within 180 days.

J. Caron motioned that the Chief approach HR and address putting someone into a higher class for the Captains position. J. Bucior seconded the motion. All in favor. 5-0.

Discussion on where the questions are coming from with M. Mack. Who is questioning the hiring of a fire marshal and or captain?

P. Christain wanted to know if he should write a letter to the Board-all 5 of them to move the First Responder Application along. Discussion was had regarding the letter. It was decided that P. Christian would write the letter and include, zero cost to the town, benefit to the town, no cost or hurts the town in any way. Letter should be cc'd to all boards in town, so everyone is on the same page. Chief to sign the letter.

#### **New Business:**

No new business

#### **Fire Marshal's Report:**

No fire marshal report at this time given there is no fire marshal. Chief gave a shorten version earlier in the meeting.

#### **Chief's Report:**

Everything is operational. Engine 5 better, engine 4 is now going through similar issues. Stations are all operational. PPE has been ordered-delivery time is between 5-6 months. Official retirement date had to be moved by 4 days-meaning we had to pay Mike Thibedeau an extra 4 days as he moved his final ending date. 2 new recruits-3 applications. Looking over all paperwork and will discuss with Melissa Mack. Training budget will drop but will request more money as training is important. Meeting with OSHA on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

E. O'Hurley discussed an article he saw in the "Observer" regarding volunteers for Shaker Pines. Would like to see a similar one in our paper for volunteers for Suffield.

#### **Deputy Chief's Report:**

June-Three (3) department wide drills. All went really well and were attended well.  
July-One (1) department wide drill at Bradley Airport.  
August-Four (4) drills are planned-will give report on August drills in September.

Chief added in that Ashley Caron is doing exceptionally well in Cadet Camp and has been asked to return for 2 more weeks for Advanced Camp.

**Chairperson's Report:**

No report.

Asked if we gave Mike Thibedeau anything for retirement. Chief stated he was presented with a letter, a plaque thanking him for his years of service.

V. Mathieu requested a motion to adjourn at 7:47pm; J. Caron seconded the motion. All in favor. 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vic Mathieu  
Fire Commission Secretary

Margaret G. Van Cott  
Recording Secretary