

**Fire Commissioners Meeting  
December 10, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.  
Freedom Hall, Main Street Cotuit, Massachusetts**

Called to order at 5:30

Present: Commissioner's Rick Pisano, Kevin Conley, Adam Zais, Fire Chief, Paul Rhude

Recording: Amy Kates is recording

Public Comment: N/A

**Minutes:** November 13, 2019 minutes were reviewed, Commissioner Conley would like to request an addition to the minutes. Just before went into Executive Session Amy Kates requested to ask a question, Commissioner Conley stated an opportunity for public comment was at the beginning of the meeting and that she will have an opportunity at the beginning of the next meeting-he wanted to make sure minutes were reflected properly. Minutes will be accepted with the proposed addition, second, all in favor.

**Chief Report**

Chief Rhude asked if ok to discuss personnel first, agreed by the Commissioners.

**Personnel:** Chief Rhude introduced Christian Gardiner-he was a Call FF for a year in Cotuit, went to work full time in Mashpee. Commissioner Pisano asked if he had FF 1/2? FF Gardiner replied yes, he just finished the academy three weeks prior. Commissioner Conley asked why FF Gardiner leaving Mashpee? FF Gardiner replied he is from Cotuit-it is where he belongs. He left hoping to get some experience and is now hoping to get that here in the community he grew up in and where he wants to be. Commissioner Conley also asked what FF Gardiner would be bringing with him to Cotuit. FF Gardiner replied he would like to see training, community involvement, helping interns get into the fire service, and his drive to continue learning and patient care. Commissioner Pisano moved to accept Chiefs recommendation, Commissioner Zais second, all in favor. Welcomed FF Christian Gardiner to Cotuit Fire Department.

**Monthly Activities:**

- (please see attachment A)
- Chief Rhude will bring in a report for marine unit responses next month.
- Commissioner Zais asked for details about the Hazardous incidents. Chief Rhude responded it could have been a propane leak, natural gas leak, small oil spill-haven't had any reportable chemical leak spill quantities brought to his attention.

**Administration:**

- Fiber optic update-have a few different options. Have received a price from Open Cape \$7000 (run from station to nearest Open Cape line on Main St.). Barnstable PD is looking for a connection to the water tower on West St, fiber would be on same route and if did it together would be a significant savings. Chief Rhude also spoke with Chris Wiseman-became aware that fiber is already on the tower on West St., so now we are waiting for a price to run a direct fiber to our station from the water tower and get network and internet connection through the water department (they get it for free for a few years in exchange for Open Cape to have use of towers). Plus, may have the ability to put a backup radio transmitter on the tower, go through fiber system and hopefully share the expense with BPD as they already have a backup 800 system there. Commissioner Conley asked if the water department is using Open Cape today? Chief Rhude answered yes, they contract it to run fiber to all their facilities (part of the security upgrade). Commissioner Conley asked about data limits and limitation to utilization. Chief Rhude doesn't have the specifications but will investigate it.

**Training:**

- LT McNamara, FF McPherson and the interns offered a RIT training at 56 High St. Commissioner Conley would like to submit a letter of approval for their file, Chief will bring it to the next meeting along with pictures.

**Pro EMS report:**

- (please see attachment B)
- Commissioner Pisano was wondering if the report could be generated with more focused and useful feedback rather than an overall large number-possibly take out more imbedded detail. Chief will ask the EMS officer to investigate that. Commissioner Conley asked how we capture that information. Chief explained our billing company Pro Ems sends out questionnaires to every person transported. One comment mentioned having a pillow-Chief will investigate it.

**Personnel:**

- Have three fire fighters out on IOD. The most recent FF out on IOD not anticipating a long term injured on duty, second FF on IOD gave Chief a Doctor note stating expects to be cleared by Jan 30, third FF on IOD not sure of return date. Chief handed out budget calculation for going forward discussed scenarios and budgets.
  - Staffing proposal: discussed thirteenth fire fighter position, expenses, and options. If we identified a qualified FF that met all of our qualifications and get them on the floor on Jan 1 as a step 3 paramedic including the expense of a family plan over the next six months, we would save \$10k with one FF still out on IOD. Next year if we were fully staffed and kept the thirteenth FF and nobody was on IOD it would cost us \$55k for the year. Chief Rhude feels have two choices-either dramatically increase line item for the LOD or hire a thirteenth fire fighter and using that person to fill open positions should then occur. After discussion about budgets and other factors all three commissioners agree that the thirteenth fire fighter is needed. Commissioner Conley made a motion that we authorize Chief to hire a thirteenth fire fighter, Commissioner Pisano added that the position would be consistent with the current qualification in the current cba for a ff/par -seconded, all in favor.
  - Discussed future hiring. Chief Rhude stated looking at every option for station coverage- call people, contract people, retirees, cooperative agreements with other fire districts-looking at every possibility but haven't found a solution.

**Apparatus:**

- Boat 266 will be out of the water shortly depending on the weather and will be stored inside at the station.
- Federal government made two more identical outboard engines available to us-will have spares at no cost.
  - Commissioner Conley asked to revert to Personnel regarding acting Lt. Though was mentioned at previous meeting, Chief restated that now have two acting Lieutenants.
- Commissioner Pisano asked about the Sandwich apparatus sharing proposal from November meeting. Chief Rhude received a draft, but we are waiting for Town of Sandwich legal staff to create final documents. They are anticipating the spare ambulance to be available as of July of next year.

**Facilities:**

- Nothing to report about station renovations. Beginning to draw up drawings for offices.
- Christmas in Cotuit went well.
- Property next to the town dock was bought, the resident is proposing to build a new dock and a deeded slip for the fire boat. The town is supporting it, may happen for the following year.

**Old Business:**

- Commissioner Zais asked where he could see the progress of allocations/budgets. Chief Rhude replied the ledger is posted online. Chief Rhude will send him a copy and post it on Autotask.

**Other business topics not anticipated by the Chair: N/A**

**New Business:**

**The Committee will now go into Executive Session.**

**Purpose 3-to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.**

**Motion made to go into executive session, second, all in favor.**

**The Committee will not return to open session.**



## COTUIT

## Incident Type Report (Summary)

Alarm Date Between {11/01/2019} And {11/30/2019}

Incident Type	Count	Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Pct of Losses
<b>3 Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Service Incident</b>				
311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	1.25%	\$0	0.00%
321 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with	47	58.75%	\$0	0.00%
322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries	3	3.75%	\$0	0.00%
	<u>51</u>	<u>63.75%</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
<b>4 Hazardous Condition (No Fire)</b>				
422 Chemical spill or leak	3	3.75%	\$0	0.00%
	<u>3</u>	<u>3.75%</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
<b>5 Service Call</b>				
500 Service Call, other	3	3.75%	\$0	0.00%
510 Person in distress, Other	2	2.50%	\$0	0.00%
553 Public service	1	1.25%	\$0	0.00%
561 Unauthorized burning	1	1.25%	\$0	0.00%
	<u>7</u>	<u>8.75%</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
<b>6 Good Intent Call</b>				
600 Good intent call, Other	6	7.50%	\$0	0.00%
	<u>6</u>	<u>7.50%</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
<b>7 False Alarm &amp; False Call</b>				
700 False alarm or false call, Other	1	1.25%	\$0	0.00%
733 Smoke detector activation due to	6	7.50%	\$0	0.00%
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	2	2.50%	\$0	0.00%
743 Smoke detector activation, no fire -	2	2.50%	\$0	0.00%
744 Detector activation, no fire -	1	1.25%	\$0	0.00%
745 Alarm system activation, no fire -	1	1.25%	\$0	0.00%
	<u>13</u>	<u>16.25%</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>

Total Incident Count: 80

Total Est Loss: \$0



## **COTUIT FIRE, RESCUE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

64 HIGH STREET • P.O. BOX 1632 • COTUIT, MA 02635  
OFFICE (508) 428-2210 • FAX (508) 428-0202 • WWW.COTUITFIRE.ORG



To: Cotuit Fire Commissioners

From Chief Paul Rhude

Re: 12/10/2019 Fire Commissioners December Meeting

### **Responses (Nov)**

80 Total responses  
51 Medical  
3 Hazardous Condition  
26 Service/Good Intent/False Alarm

### **Administration**

Fiberoptic connection to Cotuit Water  
Backup Radio System

### **Training**

RIT Training 12/9/19

### **ProEMS**

October report Attached

### **Personnel**

Firefighters IOD, update  
Open firefighter position  
13<sup>th</sup> Firefighter Position  
Negotiations

### **Apparatus**

Boat 266 – Will be OOS for Winter shortly  
Backup Outboard Engines

### **Facilities**

Station Renovation Status

### **Other**

XMass in Cotuit Dec 7  
Dock for 266