

Fire Commissioner's Meeting

Draft Minutes

November 10, 2020

Present: Chairman Rick Pisano, Commissioner Adam Zais, Commissioner Kevin Conley, Fire Chief Paul Rhude and Deputy Chief Pouliot

Meeting minutes from October 13, 2020: Motion to accept, all in favor.

Public Comment:

- *Carol Zais questioned the Facility Needs Analysis as it related to the Space Needs Analysis. Is that being reviewed? There was a drawing done twice of a new firehouse.*
- **Chairman Pisano answered: The documents will be considered. The design that was considered for that did not really address all the Bay needs of a new building. The largest change was in the office space. Commissioners will be looking back at those documents and drawing out of them.**

Fire Chief Report:

- **Month of October 2020:**
 - 52 Responses
 - 35 Medical
 - 3 Hazardous Conditions
 - 14 Service - Good Intent/False Alarm Calls (a bit of reduction from September 2020)
- *Commissioner Zais questioned: Is it possible to track the calls by the vehicle or the Unit #? (In light of the needs analysis for the station).*
 - **Chief Rhude answered: In general, all the ambulance calls are done by 262. The way Cotuit FD is operating now is that the pick-up truck goes on all those calls. We can create a report regarding which vehicles and response times/incident/type of incident. System has about 100 different types of reports that are pre-programmed.**
 - **The 35 medical calls, the ambulance and the pick-up went out on.**
 - **The 3 hazardous condition calls, and 98% of the other calls are false alarm calls which are all fire calls so there 17 calls that 265 went out on.**
 - **Engine 263 is reserve engine-hasn't rolled on a call in a while (backup in case the other one goes down**

Administration:

- PPE Supply - Good
 - Still giving out N95's as requested to the public
 - No longer supplying N95's to Cape Cod Hospital
 - *Commissioner Conley question: (praised Chief Rhude and Cotuit Fire Dept for their efforts). Regarding accounting - are we "square" with Cape Cod Hospital?*

- **Chief Rhude answered: Cotuit Fire Department passed the N95's onto Cape Cod Hospital for the same price that they had so Cape Cod Hospital paid Cotuit FD the exact same price that they paid out initially for the masks.**
- **COVID UPDATE**
 - **Barnstable Health Department** currently has 7 possible positives in the Cotuit District (possibly closer to 4 - at least 3 of these are no longer in isolation)
 - Getting 10-18 positives a day in the Town of Barnstable - quite a bit of an uptick
 - Officer Shane Clark is working with Sandwich Fire EMS Officers, MA EMS and Barnstable Health Dept. trying to get Cotuit Fire Dept as being trained/certified to administer vaccines if and when that becomes a possibility
 - Trying to be proactive and get ready in case the opportunity comes to Cotuit FD
 - *Chairman Pisano question: Do we have cold facilities to store the vaccine? It requires constant refrigeration, doesn't it?*
 - **Chief Rhude answered: The newest vaccine (Pfizer vaccine) requires -75F which require dry ice. Cotuit Fire Dept. does not have refrigeration to keep it that low. Military may be packing dry ice around the vaccine up until it is ready to be administered. Not positive regarding the other vaccine.**

Technology Update:

- Still working to move everything over to the SharePoint.
 - Just had a new Sonic Firewall show up in the system on 11-9-2020 so the other one, which was leased, will be returned to Secured Networks (monthly loan/rental unit).
 - A rack-mounted UPS is coming by the end of the week
 - *Commissioner Conley asked: Where will the rack be located?*
 - **Chief Rhude answered: Right now it is the lieutenants office/bunk room which will be the Chief's office when the new bunk rooms get added where the training room is right now.**
 - Everything will be clean with the UPS and the Sonic Firewall

Training:

- Guys did a hose-line training program on October 15, 2020.
- Sent some guys to the Coast Guard boat training program October 26-30, 2020.
 - One Week program - Boat Crew Member class (the first half of the training)
 - It is a two-week training program to qualify Cotuit Fire Dept guys to be able to run the boat.
 - Coast Guard could only run the first half this fall due to COVID and social-distancing requirements and only able to take 3 Cotuit FD guys at this time
 - Sent FF Lee, FF Gardner and FF Melanson

- Sledgehammer hitting a tire simulating a roof
 - Pipe pole hitting overhead objects simulating pulling a ceiling down
 - Pulling a dummy
 - Pulling a hose
- They will go through the course until their air-alert goes off
 - They will continue to run through the course until they fully run out of air
 - Purpose is to increase familiarization with the tanks and to get more familiar with the new tanks and their timing system
 - New tanks give more operation time with the air tank after the air alert goes off
- PRO EMS report attached

Personnel:

- One person went out with a back injury
 - seen at Cape Cod Hospital and some follow-up treatment with chiropractor and cleared for duty just under a week

Apparatus:

- Engine 262 is due for replacement in 2 years
 - Generally try to replace ambulances every 8 years
 - Have seen an uptick in repair requirements for 262
 - Brake / axle / electric problems
 - Brought it to Morrison's in Hyannis. Morrison's pulled the codes and was told that it was electrical in nature and were beyond what he could take care of and suggested bringing to an International dealer. Closest one is in Wareham. They ran the diagnostic and said it had multiple codes to do with emissions and exhaust filtering system. They were going to have to rip 262 apart and if it was going to be driven, then there could be significant damage which would cost a lot of money.
 - Rebuilt filter was ordered for \$2500 and old one was ordered to be redone for \$500 but no ambulance for about a week because whole top of motor will need to be ripped off to get to the filtering system
 - Called several other fire departments but their vehicles are all too tall - Cotuit bays are 9'9" tall and most other town bays are 12-14 feet tall.
 - Cotuit FD has to get their ambulance specially made because of the bay height
 - Loaner vehicle came through Specialty Vehicles in Plainville from Chatham Fire Department which just traded one in - the same type/model as 262
 - Use it for short period of time
 - Can purchase this loaner for \$26,000; or
 - Give back when done
 - Lieutenant Shane Clark getting loaner ambulance in service 11/10/2020 (at night)
 - Need to think about a backup solution
 - Buy the loaner?
 - Establish a "share resource" where Cotuit FD shares with another town but most other ambulances will not fit into Cotuit FD bays - making it hard to share
 - *Commissioner Zais asked if ALS is a requirement or a choice?*

- **Chief Rhude answered that ALS is a choice, however, it is standard in North America.**
 - **About 80% of calls require ALS and only a small percentage of calls require just basic life support**
- *Commissioner Conley asked: Where would the backup ambulance go?*
- **Chief Rhude answered that the pickup and the boat would need to remain outside in order for the backup ambulance to remain in. Would have to winterize the boat because taking the engines off of the boat is a huge job**

Facilities:

SECURITY / CAMERAS

- Security cameras and hard drive are done and installed with Valley Communications
 - Waiting for Valley Communications tech person to come and give a class on how to monitor the system and how to turn COMM dispatch on in order for them to monitor them as well
 - *Commissioners Conley & Zais requested to be able to sit in on the class by the Valley Communications tech*
- Security recording system is also rack-bound and backed up by the UPS

DOORS

- Still waiting on the doors
 - Doors were measured by Shepley
 - Builder was supposed to get quote last week but did not get it to Chief Rhude
 - Builder has to be insured to do work on district property
- Plans are not back in yet from the architect - need to be certified - for the building permit for the windows and interior modifications but hoping to get the certified plans from the architect in the next couple of days
- Commissioner Conley met with Chief Rhude and the Deputy and drafted **Facilities Needs Analysis** which states what the standard is, what is missing, what is needed and direction forward creating a station that has future capabilities, provides safety and the environment that is proper for professional firefighters
 - Draft was sent off to architects that specialize in fire station design and will come back with comments
 - The current facility does not provide a real long-term solutions for operations the way they are now
 - Cost and complication to bring the facility up to that standard given the limited space and in a 100+ year old building do not meet
 - Shows that the way forward is something new
 - Need a Facilities plan going forward regarding how Cotuit FD will operate in the near and far future

SOG'S

Old Business:

- Covered doors / security systems and cameras
- Elementary School property discussion
 - On the agenda with the Prudential Committee last meeting as well
 - Agreeing to the idea of a special committee but was not formed

- Chairman Pisano asked Commissioner Conley to take on the role in a more official capacity in spearheading the activity around the Facilities and Apparatus discussions with the Committee and bringing it back to the Board
 - **Commissioner Conley agreed.**
- Chairman Pisano asked Commissioner Zais to take on the the role in a more official capacity with the Committee for the school property.
 - **Commissioner Zais agreed**
- Chairman Pisano offered to help Commissioner Zais should he need back-up. Chairman also suggested that the Commissioners' Meetings start to meet more often-as supplemental meetings - to report back as needed so all three Commissioners are fully apprised and current.
 - Don't have to be long-drawn out affairs
 - Just reporting on the one or two agenda items
 - **Commissioner Zais agreed**
 - **Commissioner Conley agreed as well (at least for a period of time to a meeting every two weeks) to get a feel for where things are at.**

Motion to move that open portion of the meeting ends and proceed to executive session under Purpose 2 - Conduct Strategies in Preparation for Negotiations with non-Union personnel - specifically contract negotiations with Chief Rhude. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn, all in favor.