

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE FAIRVIEW FIRE DISTRICT
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK
13 AUGUST 2020

Present: Commissioner Vikki Simmons
Commissioner Daymon S. Yizar
Commissioner John Malone
Commissioner Emma Walthall-Moon
Commissioner James Robinson

Absent: None

Also Present: Chief Howard Reiss
Treasurer Matilde Abate
Secretary Sarah Senior

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fairview Fire District, Westchester County, New York of Thursday, 13 August 2020 convened at 19:04 hours at Fire Headquarters at 19 Rosemont Boulevard, Greenburgh, New York in a remote format. The presiding officer was Chair Vikki Simmons.

R20-08-01

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Walthall-Moon that the meeting shall be called to order:

Roll call: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent. The motion was carried.

Chair Simmons called the roll: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson, and Simmons present.

Apparatus Committee

Photos of the two Seagrave pumpers in construction were displayed.

The committee may need to go to Wisconsin for the final inspection of the two pumpers when construction nears its end.

Captain E. Malone is still working to sell existing trucks to make room for new apparatus in construction.

Commissioner Walthall-Moon inquired on how the new rigs are delivered. Chief stated that they are driven from Wisconsin by Seagrave personnel.

Commissioner Robinson inquired about what the inspection entails. Chief Reiss stated that it is a thorough examination to make sure that specifications and plans were followed appropriately.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about what would happen if an error or issue was found during the inspection. She asked if it may then be necessary to take additional trips to make sure errors are corrected. Chief Reiss stated that depending on the extent of the error an additional trip to confirm it is resolved may be warranted.

Commissioner Walthall-Moon suggested that a virtual pre-inspection is done remotely before travel, to assure the Wisconsin walk-through is final. Chief Reiss agreed.

House & Grounds Committee

The Committee should meet in September, along with key personnel, to address the issues with the buildings and make a plan to attend to those problems.



Finance Committee

The Committee should meet soon to address the 2021 budget.

Insurance Committee

Secretary Senior contacted our insurance broker, Peter Scauzillo, to get a break down of our current Vision and Dental plans to ensure we are getting the best coverage for the cost.

Chief's Report

FF Lester would like to attend college at Columbia Southern Univesity to work towards a degree in fire administration. He would like to take six (6) credits at an approximate cost of \$230 per credit.

R20-08-02

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Yizar that FF Daniel Lester is approved to attend Columbia Southern University, taking six credits for reimbursement upon satisfactory completion of his course work.

Roll call: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent. The motion was carried.

The Board approved the following purchases.

R20-08-03

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Walthall-Moon and seconded by Commissioner Robinson that the Board shall approve the purchase of up to 8 sets of turnout gear, coat, pants, and harness, from AAA Emergency Supply of North White Plains, NY at a cost of \$3,954.00 each.

Roll call: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent. The motion was carried.

R20-08-04

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Yizar and seconded by Commissioner Walthall-Moon that the Board shall approve the purchase of 50 PGI Cancer Prevention Hoods from AAA Emergency Supply of North White Plains, NY at a cost of \$95.00 each.

Roll call: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent. The motion was carried.

R20-08-05

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Yizar that the Board shall approve the expense of replacing 8 rear tires for Ladder-1 from Corsi Tire of Ossining NY at a cost of \$5,845.60 including labor.

Roll call: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent. The motion was carried.

The New York State Association of Fire Districts Conference scheduled for October 1st – October 3rd in Niagra Falls, NY has been canceled.

Firehouse Expo scheduled for October 31st – November 1st in Nashville, TN is still taking place.

The Department is operating with full staffing. Currently, there are no members out related to COVID-19. Unfortunately, the County has slowed down on its distribution of PPE. The price of NIOSH approved N95 masks has increased significantly, to approximately \$7.00. CDC approved KN95 masks are trending between \$0.80-\$0.90 a mask. The Chief put out a memo to the members telling them to remain diligent in decontamination practices, wearing PPE and making smart choices on and off duty.

Tropical Storm Isaias hit on 4 August 2020. Headquarters was without power from August 4th - August 10th but was able to rely on the back-up generator to power major systems. Station 2 lost internet and phone service during that time but personnel was able to manage with the use of iPads.

The Department responded to 24 storm-related alarms on August 4th and 17 on August 5th. ConEdison's response to the storm was disappointing.

The Town has not given the Department an exemption on Life Safety Inspections for commercial properties due to COVID-19. A schedule has been established to complete all necessary inspections beginning in September.

On 13 June 2020, the Department participated in a graduation parade in the Parkway Gardens section of the District, and on 24 June 2020, we participated in a graduation parade in Valhalla.

A letter was received from Town Supervisor, Paul Feiner, regarding COVID-19s impact on the economy.

The Department received a letter from Home Security stating that FF Robert Mentrasti's name will be placed on the New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Wall and the County's Line of Duty Death memorial. However, the ceremonies have been postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19.

The Department responded to 155 alarms in June 2020 including 68 EMS and Extrication calls, 17 mutual aid-out responses, and 7 mutual aid-in responses.

The Department responded to 203 alarms in July 2020 including 95 EMS and Extrication calls, 10 mutual aid-out responses, and 9 mutual aid-in responses.

End of Chief's Report

Commissioner Walthall-Moon inquired about FF Mentrasti. Chief Reiss explained that he was a career firefighter for over 30 years, 25 of them at Fairview. He was very active with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and organized many of their Fill the Boot fundraisers. He retired when he became ill and unfortunately passed away in 2017 due to 9/11 related cancer.

Public Participation Period

Claire Pizzuti explained that the Department responded to an EMS at her residence in July 2020 and wanted to thank the members who responded. She stated they did an exemplary job taking care of her.

R20-08-06

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Walthall-Moon that the Board shall enter into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to the medical history and employment of particular persons and to review the Sick and Late Reports for June and July 2020:

Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson, and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent.

The motion was carried.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 19:34 hours.

The Executive Session was concluded at 20:16 hours.

R20-08-07

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Yizar and seconded by Commissioner Robinson that the Public Session shall resume:

Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson, and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent.

The motion was carried.

R20-08-08

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Malone and seconded by Commissioner Yizar that the Board shall authorize payment to employees for periods of illness/sick time set forth in the corrected Sick & Late Reports for June and July 2020:

Roll call: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson, and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent.

The motion was carried.

R20-08-09

Upon the motion offered by Commissioner Yizar and seconded by Commissioner Malone that the bills shall be approved as submitted by the Treasurer and recorded in the Account QuickReport as of 10 June 2020 in the amount of \$309,804.60 and the Account QuickReport as of 20 July 2020 in the amount of \$466,836.87:

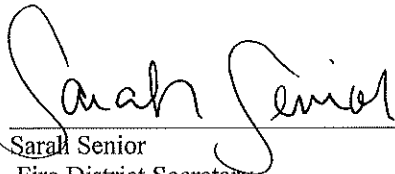
Roll call: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent. The motion was carried.

Commissioner Yizar thanked the Department for the hospitality shown to him and his family during the power outage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias. The members allowed them to charge electronics and made sure they had what they needed.

R20-08-010

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon the motion offered by Commissioner Walthall-Moon and seconded by Commissioner Malone that the meeting shall be adjourned at 20:21 hours:

Roll call: Commissioners Yizar, Malone, Walthall-Moon, Robinson and Simmons voting aye, nays none, none absent. The motion was carried.



Sarah Senior
Fire District Secretary