

**Town of Suffield**



**Board of Fire Commissioners Minutes**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting for the Fire Commission**

October 19, 2022

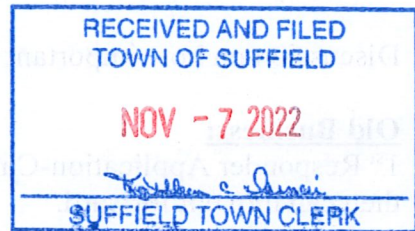
Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 7:31pm

Attendance: P. Christian; E. O'Hurley; V. Mathieu; J. Bucior; J. Caron; P. Yeskey

Others in attendance: Chief Flynn, Margaret Van Cott, Dan Vindigni and Z. Louis; Attorney Donnelly, First Selectman Molin

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for the fallen officers from Bristol.



**Secretary's Report**

No report

**Minutes & Correspondences:**

Motion made by V. Mathieu to accept the July 12, 2022 minutes; seconded by J. Caron. All in favor. 6-0.

Motion made by V. Mathieu to accept the September 26, 2022 minutes; seconded by J. Caron. All in favor. 5-0. (P. Yeskey absent in September)

J. Bucior made a motion to add in a vote at the November meeting to correct the previous vote. V. Mathieu seconded the motion. All in favor. 6-0.

**Financials:**

Budget is in good shape. Oil and electricity will be high, but that is to be expected.

Reviewed the handouts provided by Chief Flynn.

Main Station-14.2%

West Suffield Station-12.6%

Mountain Street Station-21.0%

East Street Station-16.9%

All equipment is in good shape.

J. Caron made a motion to accept the financials. V. Mathieu seconded the motion. All on favor. 6-0.

**Correspondences:**

No correspondence

**Calls and Activities:**

52 calls for the month of July. 59 calls for the month of August. 56 calls for the month of September.

J. Caron asked the chief to provide at the next meeting how many times does a single firefighter respond to a call.

**Public Comment:**

D. Donnelly-Town Attorney-discussed his email he sent out to the Fire Commission Board. He had copies for the others that did not receive the email. He had concerns with the words Posting and "Filling" of positions of Fire Marshal and Captain. He stated that the commission is not allowed to "fill" positions. All positions have to be filled by First Selectman and Human Resources.

Commission understands that they need to send all information about hiring someone to the First Selectman and HR. They will continue to do this. Wording was wrong on the agenda.

Discussion on how important it is to have the Fire Commission in place.

**Old Business:**

1<sup>st</sup> Responder Application-Chief met with the First Selectmen, need to get the TA signed and then can move it forward.

Fire Marshal position is under the Building Inspector-not the Fire Commission.

The current inspectors still report to the chief.

**New Business:**

P. Christian to work with Chief and First Selectman to get a Fire Marshal hired as well as 2 part time fire fighters. Need to bring this all up at the Board of Finance meeting.

First Selectman does not think we need a Captain, he would rather have firefighters and said that Chief agrees with him. V. Mathieu asked if they decided not to hire a Captain, can we hire more firefighters. J. Caron stated that we have had an acting Captain when Chief is off. He also stated that we need to have a captain in place.

First Selectman would like to have more conversations regarding positions and what is really needed in the firehouses.

Concern was expressed by the commission stating that we always need an "officer" in charge, "we always have to have an authority figure on duty." Each officer takes a shift-day, evening and late night.

First selectman stated there is no rush to make these decisions and he will look into and have a meeting with the commission board.

Discussion of all special meetings being sent to First Selectman's Executive Assistant to post on the calendar so all know they need or should attend the special meetings.

Discussion of time clocks in all town offices. All will or have started to clock in and out when they arrive at work and when they leave work. Starting January 1, 2023 this will be mandated in all areas in Suffield.

**Fire Marshal's Report:**

52 calls in July:

- 2-Fire
- 1-Overpressure Rupture
- 4-Rescue
- 8-Hazardous
- 11-Service calls
- 11-Good Intent Calls
- 14-False Alarm
- 1-Severe Weather

59 calls in August:

- 3-Fire
- 0-Overpressure Rupture
- 2-Rescue
- 14-Hazardous
- 19-Service calls
- 2-Good Intent Calls
- 28-False Alarm
- 1-Severe Weather
- 1-Special Type

56 calls in September:

- 3-Fire
- 0-Overpressure Rupture
- 4-Rescue
- 1-Hazardous
- 8-Service calls
- 24-Good Intent Calls
- 13-False Alarm
- 0-Severe Weather
- 0-Special Type
- 3-Undetermined

Discussed inspections and renovations around the town.

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

Discussion of the Chief's report:

Vehicles: Trucks are all in good shape. Ladder door repaired and in service; waiting for repair date

Facilities: All stations are operational

Equipment: All good—new Cascade filling station delivered and installed; PPR cleaned as required.

Personnel: All healthy-call volume is normal.

Other: Completed, reviewed and submitted all ENFIRS reports for June, July and August  
Worked on new scheduling for career personnel  
Completed 2021-2022 budget purchases  
Working on budget for 2022-2023  
Attended meeting at the request of State Fire Administration on Cancer Initiatives and Statutes for the CT Fire Service.  
Coordinated SFD involvement with Honor Flight (in DC) on 9/24/2022.

Chief is taking vacation in November and will not be in attendance for the November meeting.

Discussion of the possibility of a Special Meeting in November. P. Christian will notify everyone if the date of the November meeting will be changed.

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

Training July through October:

July 11, 19, 27 and August 12-Members participated in Neighborhood Open House with Suffield Ambulance and Police.

July 25-Low angle rope rescue-13 members attended

August 2-Members participated in the Suffield National Night Out at Suffield High School.

August 15-Site walkthrough-15 members participated

August 16-Officers training

August 22-Company drills 1&4 and 2&3-5 members participated

September 19-Review of prior incidents, operating protocols-7 members participated

September 24-25-Pump Operations at Company 2--7 members participated.

October 1-Flashover for the Modern Fire Environment -12 members attended.

October 10-Rapid Intervention Team-18 members participated.

Upcoming:

October 12-Officer training

October 17-Chimnet Fires

October 26-Eversource gas response

J. Caron asked Deputy Chief for his status on his classes that he has taken and what needs to be completed.

**Chairperson's Report:**

No report.

J. Caron made a motion at 8:50 to adjourn. J. Bucior seconded the motion. All in favor. 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vic Mathieu  
Fire Commission Secretary

Margaret G. Van Cott  
Recording Secretary