

## Town of Suffield



### **Board of Fire Commissioners Minutes**

Minutes of the Special Meeting for the Fire Commission

January 25, 2024

Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Attendance: P. Christian; P. Yeskey; V. Mathieu; J. Bucior and N. Prusi.

Others in attendance: Scott Cunningham; M. Van Cott.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chief handed out the 2024-2025 budget packet to all commissioners to review. P. Christian thanked the Chief for his time and effort in putting this packet together for them to review and go over as a board.

Discussions took place regarding hiring a part-time firefighter. Discussion involved the importance of having another part-time firefighter to join the squad.

Chief Cunningham stated to the Commission that more manning is needed to safely and effectively operate the fire department. He stated that currently the department is understaffed and that this needs to change. Hence the request for an additional full-time firefighter.

Discussions were had regarding some numbers in the budget and the Chief took his time to explain why some numbers have increased and others have decreased.

Discussions of the possibility of hiring a part-time administrative assistant. The Chief has spoken to First Selectman regarding "borrowing" an administrative assistant from another area and sharing expenses. The chief will wait to hear back from the First Selectman.

Discussion of the SAFER Grant and how that will pay 100% for 3 Firefighters.

V. Mathieu asked the Chief to look over all the call numbers from last year and make sure the numbers for this year are accurate. The Chief said he will do that.

Discussion of the Tolland dispatch. Initial cost will be expensive, but year after year, it will be cheaper to use Tolland than to pay a dispatcher in Suffield.

The board stated the importance of having more firefighters on call especially at night and on the weekends to help protect the Town of Suffield.

N. Prusi motioned to accept the budget including the part-time firefighter. J. Bucior seconded the motion. All in favor. 5-0.

V. Mathieu motioned to present the numbers to the Board of Finance for the Tolland County proposal. P. Yeskey seconded the motion. All in favor. 5-0.

V. Mathieu motioned to adjourn at 7:48pm. J. Bucior seconded the motion. All in favor. 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vic Mathieu  
Fire Commission Secretary

Margaret G. Van Cott  
Recording Secretary