

Town of Ridgefield
Fire Commission Meeting
Town Hall/Large Conference Room
400 Main Street; Ridgefield, CT
February 17, 2016 – 6:00 pm
Approved Minutes

Commissioners Attending: Rudy Marconi
Robert Hebert
Maureen Kozlark
Steven Zemo

Absent: Barbara Manners

Representing RFD/OEM: Chief Kevin Tappe
Assistant Chief Jerry Myers

AGENDA

1. Review of Department Response Statistics for Calendar Year 2015
2. Engine #2 Status
3. Review of Revised Rules & Regulations - Possible Vote
4. Review of Minimum Staffing Proposal - Possible Vote
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes - 1/20/16 Special Meeting

R. Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Review of Department Response Statistics for Calendar Year 2015

Chief Tappe distributed the call volume statistics for years 2013, 2014 and 2015. There was some discussion about the number of calls and the fact that EMS calls had decreased in 2015. Chief Tappe believes the reduction may be due to a lack of large storms in that year. B. Hebert noticed that there was a mistake in that a fire death was not recorded as such. Chief Tappe will check and correct as needed.

2. Engine #2 Status

Chief Tappe reported on the status of the new Engine #2. The chassis has been delivered to the manufacturer and a partial payment made. Delivery is expected in June 2016. Chief Tappe requested the approval of the Commission to sell Engine #4 using Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus as the broker and current Engine #2 to become Engine #4. **M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded a motion to sell Engine #4 through this broker. Current Engine 2 will replace Engine 4. Motion carried 4-0.**

3. Review of Revised Rules & Regulations - Possible Vote

The Commission was asked for its approval of the final copy of the Rules & Regulations. All Commissioners have reviewed them. **M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to approve the Revised Rules & Regulations dated 12/2/15. Motion carried 4-0.** Chief Tappe will clean up and provide a finished copy to all personnel.

4. Review of Minimum Staffing Proposal - Possible Vote

Chief Tappe asked the Commission to vote on the proposed increase in staffing. M. Kozlark stated she understands and supports the concept but is worried about the impact on the budget. B. Hebert stated he thinks public safety is a priority and that cuts could be found elsewhere in the Town budget. S. Zemo stated he supports the concept also. R. Marconi stated his concern about increasing the staffing on a trial basis. If it doesn't work out, reversing the decision will be disruptive again to the department. He would prefer to start the increased staffing on January 1, 2017; this would only have a six-month impact on the budget. There was some discussion about the new state regulations regarding a 2-1/2% cap in Town budget increases and how that may affect State grant funding. **B. Hebert moved and S. Zemo seconded the motion to fill the two current open positions and to recommend to the Board of Selectmen a change to a minimum staffing of eight personnel for a six-month trial period starting on January 1, 2017. Motion carried 4-0.**

M. Kozlark moved and B. Hebert seconded a motion to accept as written the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 20, 2016. Motion carried 4-0.

M. Kozlark moved and S. Zemo seconded a motion to adjourn the Fire Commission quarterly meeting at 6:52 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Gannon Lionetti