

BURLINGTON FIRE COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

November 20, 2012

The Meeting of the Burlington Fire Commission convened at 0800 hours in Chief Lasker's office with Commissioners Mark Saba, John Vincent, Kevin McLaughlin, and Linda Sheehey. Also present were Chief S. Lasker, D.C D. Roberts and Clerk of the Board, Jillian Bogert.

Meeting End Time

Meeting end time was set for 0900 hours by motion of Commissioner Sheehey, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin with all in favor.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

A motion to accept the last meeting's minutes was made by Commissioner Sheehey, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin with all in favor.

A Presentation of Commissions for BC T. Mantone, BC P. Brown, Capt. S. Kilpatrick, Capt. A. Collette, Lt. J. Grenon, Lt. D. Rousseau, and Firefighters E. Cochran and N. Deavitt were made An expression of gratitude and appreciation was given and they were awarded.

Chief's Oral Report

After 33 years of service to the department and 14 years as Fire Marshal, Terry Francis has retired. He will be building a program similar to ours in South Burlington. The 3 shifts were able to say good-bye with cake and a lunch. For the time being, Capt. Scott Kilpatrick will serve as Interim Fire Marshal. Once we have approval we will begin the hiring process for the vacant spot.

To better accommodate the public, we have extended the Fire Marshal Office phone hours. We have also given the radio maintenance to the Deputy Chief of Administration to help keep Fire Marshal personnel in the office. We hope this helps make the office more accessible to the public.

Run VT has made a generous donation to help the department buy a response utility vehicle. Due to the amount of participants and spectators at the waterfront we are truly stretched thin and have limited access to places such as the bike path. We have an ATV in mind and plan to build a body that will accommodate a back board or stretcher. Currently we need to raise some more money before we can make a purchase.

Thirty six portables were deployed this month through a grant which allowed us to meet the narrow banding requirement for 2013. Some of the old portables are at the end of life and we will have to discard them.

The new Car 12 has been striped. It is currently at DPW waiting to be brought to MHQ in Massachusetts to be outfitted with lights.

We heavily prepared for Hurricane Sandy by setting up a meeting with the Mayor in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) at PD and sent two BFD members down to the EOC in Waterbury. We deployed 2 Technical Rescue members to Southern Vermont but never had to officially run the EOC thankfully. This proved to be a good exercise in case weather had changed.

A rave like event at the Memorial Auditorium caused issues within the city. Firefighters were hired for the Barstool Blackout per usual and handled the overwhelming situation well. Many problems occurred outside the event with intoxication, car accidents, etc. This event might lead to a change in the permit process.

Eight members of the department traveled to Breezy Point, NY to help gut houses of those who were effected by Hurricane Sandy. They were able to help 5 families but were apart of a group who overall helped 75 familes. They raised their own money and had items donated for the 4 days they spent down in NY.

We have begun the Lieutenant promotional process recently. The written test was a few weeks ago with 16 candidates. There will be 3 days of oral boards in December. Due to the Fire Marshal leaving, that should create a shift and room for promotions once the position is filled.

Old/New Business

Old – An awards party is being planned for early 2013 at BCA Firehouse Gallery. Details to be worked out.

Old – A question about the EMS program arose. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment: The Commission adjourned at 0840 by motion of Commissioner McLaughlin and seconded by Commissioner Sheehey.