

BURLINGTON FIRE COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

October 19, 2015

The Meeting of the Burlington Fire Commission convened at 0831 hours in Chief Lasker's office with Commissioners Perkinson, McLaughlin, Sweeney, Sheehey and Vincent present. Also present were Chief S. Lasker, Deputy Chief R. Plante, Battalion Chief A. Collette, and Administrative Assistant M. Sweeney.

Meeting End Time

Meeting end time set for 0900 hours by motion of Commissioner Sheehey, seconded by Commissioners McLaughlin and Commissioner Sweeney.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Commissioner Perkinson asked if any changes needed to be made to September Commission Minutes and for a motion to accept the minutes. Motion was made by Commissioner McLaughlin and seconded by Commissioner Sheehey.

Chief's Oral Report

- Paramedic project is ongoing and preparing to go live soon. Working on getting Union approval on the MOU. The department hopes to go live in November.
- Union negotiations are done and the contract has been settled. Once signed it will include one year retro and three years going forward. Commissioner McLaughlin asked for any details on the contract. Chief Lasker advised there is a modest pay increase, a change to copays and some changes to retirement. There is also an outline specific for paramedics.
- The Fire Alarm Technician position has been posted for one month and has no interest. Minimum qualifications include being a master electrician. The position has been changed to a grade higher in pay to be more appealing. Tim Hennessey, the previous technician who has taken a different position with the city, has been assisting with job functions while the position is vacant.
- The department is still working on grants. The department is still waiting on the final notice from the city for approval to use the \$116,845 VComm grant for portable radios.
- Tower 1 was seriously damaged while driving over train tracks in the south end of the city. It is currently in Buffalo, NY being fixed and estimated to take five weeks to fix. Engine 2 is an older truck and has been in and out of service during the past couple of weeks leaving the department down to one aerial at times.
- The budget process has started and is looking at planning for the next 2-3 years. The department is hoping to enhance the budget for working line items. There has been no progress on the vehicle replacement plan with the Capital Budget due to lack of funding.
- The new ambulance is due to arrive in December or January. Once received it will take a couple of weeks to personalize and outfit for the department.
- There are currently four open positions with the department. Four letters of offer went out to four candidates this week. The majority of the applicants were white males. The department has been expanded its advertising and includes the National Minority Report.

- The Awards Banquet is coming up. The Rotary Club will not be involved this year.

Old or New Business

- Commissioner Sweeney updated on the progress of the Awards Banquet. It will be held at the Hilton again this year and will look similar to previous years.

Open Session

Nothing at this time.

Adjournment

Commissioner Perkinson would like to say on the record as this is Chief Lasker's last meeting how much he appreciates his service to the city and that he thinks he did a great job. All other commissioners agreed and thought he should be very proud of what he accomplished. The meeting was adjured at 0900 by motion from Commissioner McLaughlin and seconded by Commissioner Sheehey.