

# BURLINGTON FIRE COMMISSION

## Minutes of the Meeting

March 24, 2015

The Meeting of the Burlington Fire Commission convened at 0834 hours in Chief Lasker's office with Commissioners Perkinson, McLaughlin, Sheehey, Sweeney, and Vincent present. Also present were Chief S. Lasker, Deputy Chief R. Plante, Administrative Assistant M. Sweeney, Business Administrator L. Veronneau, and a member from the public Dwight Aseltine.

### Meeting End Time

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

### Minutes of the Last Meeting

Commissioner Perkinson asked for a motion to accept the minutes from January meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Commissioner Sheehey with no objections minutes were accepted and submitted.

### Old or New Business

- Business Administrator Lise Veronneau presented to the Commissioners to discuss the proposal from the VNA and contract extension for the ambulance billing. A copy will also be sent to the Commissioners. Commissioner Perkinson asked if there were any objections, no objections were made and all in favor.
- Lise also wanted the Commission to know that the Department's Honor Guard did a wonderful job with the City's participation celebrating International Francophonie Month.

### Commission Presentation

The meeting paused from 08:41 until 08:49 while firefighters were presented with Commission Awards and Chief Lasker swore in members who just completed probation in the Day Room of the Station.

### Old or New Business (Continued)

- Dwight Aseltine., a member of the public, presented to the Commission his concern regarding a department vehicle that has been observed outside of the city on numerous occasions. Mr. Aseltine voiced concern over the vehicle being such distance out of the city (seen in Grand Isle) and asked what the purpose was for this member's take home car, the last time it was required for an emergency response, vehicle type, gas mileage, and what restrictions the member had while using the vehicle. Chief Lasker provided copies of the city and department policy for city vehicles. The Chief and Commission agreed the vehicle was used in an appropriate manner due to this member's importance as the Training and Safety Officer to a multiple alarm fire scene and being on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
- Commissioner Perkinson updated the Commission on the progress being made with the plans for this year's Awards Banquet. Commissioner Perkins, Commissioner Sweeney, Union President Michael Curtin, and Chief Lasker have discussed development of the Award Ceremony and partnering with the Rotary Club at the initiative of Lise Veronneau.

### Chief's Oral Report

- There have been several meetings regarding the paramedic proposal one with the CAO and one with the Mayor. Some improvements have been made including a multi-year plan. All of this information is now with the Mayor and will likely be presented at the City Council meeting on April 14th.
- Union negotiations are ongoing.
- The department had identified the product it would like to purchase from the \$300,000 SCBA grant it received for new air packs. Purchasing will be done shortly and this will replace the majority of the department's current inventory.
- Capital improvements are almost completed. A plan has been put in place to be able to purchase new trucks every twelve years. All vehicles are included including the staff vehicles. The department has also received approval from the city to use money from the capitol fund to supplement donations (including \$7,000 from the Vermont City Marathon) made to purchase a utility vehicle to use on the bike path for calls. This will keep the heavier apparatus off from the bike path and will hold up to four members at a time for medical and brush fires. The department hopes to have it equipped and ready to go for the marathon.
- The member who was injured during third alarm fire at 74 Elmwood Avenue has returned for full-time duty.
- One probationary member resigned leaving the department with two openings after the retirement of Lieutenant Francis.
- The department has promoted Lieutenants Libby, Murphy, and LaChance to Captain. This means the department is at current staffing for it's ranks.
- The department's participation with the City's 150th Anniversary was very successful. The open house drew a lot of members of the public in who stayed around to ask questions. The honor guard was stationed at City Hall and walked up Church Street.

### Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 09:13 by motion of Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Sheehy.