

BURLINGTON FIRE COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

August 27, 2014

The Meeting of the Burlington Fire Commission convened at 0833 hours in Chief Lasker's office with Commissioners J. Perkinson, K. McLaughlin, J. Vincent, L. Sheehey and S. Sweeney present. Also present were Chief S. Lasker, Deputy Chief P. Brown, and Administrative Assistant M. Sweeney. City Attorney Gene Bergman joined the meeting at 08:56 to discuss Open Meeting Law changes.

Meeting End Time

Meeting end time set for 0930 hours by motion from Commissioner Vincent and seconded by Commissioner Sheehey.

Commission Presentation

The meeting paused to allow the Commissioners to present Commission Certificates to Lieutenant Michael LaChance and Fire Fighter Kevin Alexander for completion of one year in their ranks. Members on shift were witness to the award. The meeting reconvened at 08:38.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Commissioner Perkinson asked if there were any objections or changes that anyone would like to make to June's minutes. With no objections minutes were accepted and submitted.

Chief's Oral Report

- DC Brown has been working on getting an Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant that was awarded to the department. The amount awarded was \$312,000 to help offset the costs of airpacks to make sure they are compliant with new NFPA standards. September 8th it will go before the board of finance for approval. City will have to match \$31,000 to assist.
- Friday, August 29th Chief Lasker and Battalion Chief Plante will meet with the Mayor to present their proposal on moving towards a paramedic level.
- There has been no activity to report on since last meeting for the union negotiations .
- Capital Improvement projects are continuing. Starting September 15th the apparatus floor for Station 3 is going to be under construction for replacement. Station 3 will be closed during this time and Engine 3 will be running out of Central for their normal calls.
- The department now has twelve probationary members as two have come off probation and are now on shift. An additional two members are scheduled to come off probation in October.
- There have been two arrests made in relation to the arson incident at Champlain College's Whiting Hall on July 10th.
- The waterfront had to be evacuated during the July 3rd fireworks due to weather. Chief Lasker advised he would like to try to build a policy with department heads to implement a plan for emergency situations like this during big events.
- Work is being done to existing fleet of vehicles. The new Fire Investigation Van is finishing up having body work done. The Fire Marshal's car needs some body work done, and Rescue 1 is scheduled to have some warranty maintenance done on it.
- The Shelburne Museum is in possession of a horse drawn fire engine that served the city of Burlington in the 1800s that they would like to give back to the department. Chief Lasker is currently working on trying to

find a location to house it. There is also another piece donated back from the Ethan Allen Club that is currently in storage.

Old or New Business

- There have been changes to the Open Meeting Law, Act 143 (H. 497). City Attorney Gene Bergman came to the meeting at 08:56 to discuss some of the changes to the law and key items to consider. Commission Board members were educated on changes and were able to ask questions for clarity. Gene left after this discussion.

Open Session

Nothing to discuss during Open Session.

Executive Session

The Commission Board went into executive session at 09:47 by motion of Commissioner Vincent and seconded by Commissioner Sheehey. The topic of discussion was the Board of Merit and evaluations of employees. At this time Chief Lasker, Deputy Chief Brown, and Administrative Assistant Meghan Sweeney left the meeting. The meeting came out of executive session at 10:07.

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at 10:07 motion made by Commissioner Sweeney seconded by Commission Sheehey and McLaughlin.