

BURLINGTON FIRE COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

October 25, 2016

The Meeting of the Burlington Fire Commission convened at 0830 hours in the Chief's office with Commissioners Perkinson, McLaughlin, Sweeney, Bond and Sheehey present. Also present were Deputy Collette, and Administrative Assistant M. Sweeney. Councilor David Hartnett and residents Larry Brown and Gretchen Kennedy joined for Open Session.

Meeting End Time

Meeting end time set for 0900 hours by motion of Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Sheehey with all in favor.

Presentation of Commission

The Commission along with members on shift gathered to present Thomas Morrell with his Commission Award for completing one year as a probationary firefighter with the Burlington Fire Department. Firefighter Morrell then recited the firefighter's oath and was sworn in as a Burlington Firefighter by DC Collette.

Open Session

With members of the public present the Commission went into Open Session at 08:37. Councilor David Hartnett and North Avenue resident's Larry Brown and Gretchen Kennedy voiced their concerns about the beach fires happening near the bike path and North Shore beach area. Numerous fires are happening on the beach especially during the warm months. The concern is that they can easily get out of hand, and on September 13th there was a response from the Fire Department due to a bicyclist on the bike path who witnessed a large fire. It took multiple engines and was very concerning for the residents and neighbors. After Hurricane Irene the driftwood that had been on the beach was pushed into the trees. The residents were concerned about the potential for another significant fire.

Mr. Brown and Miss Kennedy identified three points as major problems:

1. People are still having open fires even though signs are on the stairs going to the beach. It also against City Ordinances. Would like to possibly have more signs directly on the beach.
2. The accumulation of driftwood in the trees is a concern. They believe the cost to remove is likely very high.
3. The area intended to be used as a turn around at North Avenue Extension has now evolved into a parking area and is being used for access and other illegal activities.

Deputy Chief Collette said he would work with the Fire Marshal's Office as well as Parks and Recreation to see if they can work on a solution together and go to location to have eyes on the problem. Will have an update for Commission at next meeting.

Public members exited the meeting at 08:57.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

With no objections the minutes from September's meeting were accepted.

Chief's Oral Report

- Chief Locke is working with CAO on the FY18 budget. So far the discussion is positive.
- Working on applying for a grant that would allow purchase of power lift stretchers for the ambulances.

- The Department is still trying to promote the Bond Vote via social media and news prints.
- Bids from the RFP for the new engine and quint are opening tomorrow. No questions have been submitted and the information was sent to 7 vendors via email and was posted to the RFP section of the website.
- It is likely the change to have a Deputy Chief of Operations and Deputy Chief of Administration is not going to happen until April, 2017. The backup vehicle for the DC is ordered, and will be used as a back up to C-12 as well.
- Awards banquet is on track and happening on Thursday, November 3rd.
- Paramedic Program is going well.
- The last draft for the final review of the Strategic Plan changes are being reviewed now.
- Turnout gear project is coming to a close after 9 month of trial wear and test. DC Collette is collecting final feedback on the gear.
- A new project will start in a couple weeks that will have a BFD member working on incident response plans.
- The recruit academy has two weeks left and then the probationary members will be on shift. In mid November Senior Firefighter Michael Charney will be moving into the Assistant Fire Marshal's Position.
- There will be an area at McNeil Generating Station dedicated to a vehicle extrication training.

Old or New Business

- Discussed Awards Banquet. Commissioner Sweeney agreed to get the programs printed for this year.

Adjournment

Commissioner Perkinson adjourned the meeting at 09:11 with no objections.