

# MINUTES

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## Board of Fire Engineers Board, Committee, Office, Etc.

Date: May 20, 2019 Time: 6:00 P.M.  
Present: Chief Hamilton, Deputy Chief Rudge, Asst. Chief Gasco,  
Asst. Chief Piscitelli, Asst. Chief Silver  
Absent: None

Minutes from 5/6/19 were approved. Invoices were signed. Mail was read.  
Account balances were reviewed.

### **6:00 P.M. COMPANY OFFICERS**

The following officers were present for the meeting: Capt. King, Capt. Newlands, Capt. Strom, Lt. Kosiba, Lt. Cadrin, Lt. LaVallee, and Lt. Dalton. The following items were reviewed:

- Abuse of red lights-Chief Hamilton warned that if you misuse your red light, your permit will be revoked. If your truck is not expected to respond, you should not be using your red lights—the same with a carbon monoxide call in another district. Red lights should only be used when necessary. Asst. Chief Piscitelli was glad that Chief Hamilton brought this up. He said he's witnessed some members using their red lights when it wasn't necessary. They should only be used in a true emergency.
- Attendance at Town Meeting-Chief Hamilton said the funding for a new pumper was approved at Town Meeting. He mentioned an article in the Millbury/Sutton Chronicle noting that five or six firefighters at the meeting left shortly after the truck was approved. Chief Hamilton said this does not put the fire department in a good light. He appealed to everyone to stick it out and stay as long as you can. People take notice. Keep this in mind for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for November. New fire and police stations will be on the Warrant. Asst. Chief Gasco also noted that it was sad when only five or six members show up to support a new fire truck.
- Social Media complaint-Chief Hamilton received a complaint about a firefighter's comments made on Facebook. Although the comments were made in a private message, the woman complained that the person should not be a firefighter. Chief Hamilton asked everyone to remember that people see you as representing the fire department if your profile lists you as a firefighter or if any of your pictures show the fire department. Watch your comments.
- Driving fire apparatus-Chief Hamilton said everyone should slow it down and obey all rules & regulations of the road when responding to a call.
- Approval of new fire truck-specs are being put together and a new Engine 3 could be ordered by the end of the week. The Board agreed on a Ferrara and it will take eight to nine months for the truck to be built.
- Disposal of Engine 3-the old Engine 3 will be turned over to the Board of Selectmen for disposal as they see fit.
- New fire station-plans for the new fire station are moving along. Bore testings were good and the architect is ready to prepare floor plans for the Committee to review.

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- 20 Rhodes Street-The apartment building at 20 Rhodes Street is being renovated and a sprinkler system will be installed in ½ of it.
- 95 Elm Street-The rear exit way at 95 Elm Street was initially closed for one week so cement could be poured. The contractor notified Chief Hamilton the exit way could remain closed for another two or three weeks because of problems with the cement. Chief Hamilton ordered that an emergency stairway be put in place until cement work begins again.
- Changes at the Mall-The following businesses are going in at the Mall-ULTA is going in at the former Pier One, 110 Grill is going in to the vacant space near Guitar Center, and Torrid is going in to the vacant space next to Talbot's.
- Buck Brothers expanding-Buck Brothers is putting up a new office building. A new storefront will go into the old building. This will be a showroom for kitchen and bath works. Plans for 12 new homes going in behind Buck Brothers are in the beginning stages.
- Clear View Terrace-A proposal for 140 townhouses at the former golf course is being reviewed. The developers had agreed to run the water line up Park Hill but this may be more expensive than first thought. A pump station will also be needed.
- Discover Marble is constructing a new building to be used as a showroom.
- National Grid Training Center is doing some renovations to their building.
- Truck repairs-most repairs have been done. The rest will be done at the end of the fiscal year if funds are available.
- Guidelines for assisting the ambulance are being prepared. A single engine tone will be used regardless of the time of day. The Board will act on the guideline later in the meeting. Capt. King asked if something could be done about the numerous lift assist calls to one address. He was told no-the fire department needs to respond.
- De-weeding treatment of Dorothy Pond will be done on 5/30/19.
- Memorial Day events. Engine 3 is scheduled to participate. Although a parade will not be held, all members are invited to attend (in Parade Uniform) as the group travels to different locations to honor those who died serving their country.
- Rules for chimineas, fire pits, outdoor fire places-Chief Hamilton is drawing up a list of regulations for the use of chimineas, fire pits, and outdoor fireplaces.
- Bon fire on Dorothy Pond-a couple of residents on Dorothy Pond have asked for a permit to conduct a 4<sup>th</sup> of July bon fire. Chief Hamilton advised them to contact the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation since the fire will be held on the waterway.
- A new hydrant is being installed at Lincoln and Miles Street.
- Town Meeting attendance - Deputy Chief Rudge and Asst. Chief Gasco said they were disappointed with the behavior of a few firefighters. Deputy Chief Rudge said we are the best department around and we want to keep it that way. Some members need to work out their issues and move the department forward. Chief Hamilton said that the perception is the fire department gets whatever it wants. But, we can't think that way. We need to provide a reason for the need and justify the request. Asst. Chief Gasco said our reputation in Town has always been good-but, we shouldn't expect to get whatever we ask for. He was

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disappointed in the attendance at Town Meeting. More firefighters should have been there to support the request.

- Lt. Cadrin asked about sirens since Lt. King's new truck has an outlet for one. He was told "no".
- Lt. LaVallee asked about the deck gun on Tower 1. He was told the wrong part was ordered. The correct part is on its way.
- Capt. Strom said he feels things at Station 5 are going good and that this has always been a tight knit group.
- Lt. Kosiba asked for an update on Cobblestone Village. He was told one building is occupied. Keys are in the Community Room. Eventually, a master box (Box 551) will be installed.
- Capt. King thanked everyone for attending his pre-retirement party. He said this is probably his last meeting before retirement. He asked if there was a way to have notices sent to his station rather than him having to contact everyone. Chief Hamilton said he expects the company captain to come up with a way to notify everyone quickly and simply. Capt. King said the shed at Station 2 has been cleaned. He asked what to do with the boat and sled. They will remain there for now. Capt. King asked about a radio for each captain. Chief Hamilton felt this would create a lot of chatter (on the air). Capt. King said he knows that in the past, each station had a representative on the Board and HQ always had two because it was the largest station. He suggested that each station have a representative on the Board and open up the fifth position to the most qualified member of the department. The Board will discuss this at a later time.
- Members needing an ID can contact the office for arrangements.
- New flags for Fire HQ and Station 2 were purchased.
- FF. Matt Anderson will plant flowers at Fire HQ for Memorial Day. Thank You!
- Ret. Asst. Chief Dore put flags and markers on the graves of those who were members of the fire department. Thank You!
- Grade 2, Elmwood Street School, donated goodies to the firefighters. Chief Hamilton said the class would like a picture for their room.
- In closing, Chief Hamilton thanked the officers for their support and for the great job they are doing.

### **REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS**

All members were reappointed but have not received notification from the Board of Selectmen and have not been sworn in. This item will be placed on the Agenda for 6/3/19.

### **NEW ENGINE 3**

Chief Hamilton said Millbury has joined the Houston Galveston Area Council's Co-Operative Purchasing Program (HGAC). The fee to purchase a truck through the HGAC will be \$3000. Going through the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts would cost about \$30,000. The Town Manager said the Fire Department can order the truck once HGAC membership approval is received. Chief Hamilton is scheduled to meet with Paul Grondalski, SVI sales representative, on 5/22/19 to review final specs. Board members asked for



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fiberglass ladders. Members of Station 3 had a list of requests for the new truck-one being a flag on the front grill. Board members agreed to this request. The Board also decided that any mounting on the truck could only be done with their approval. Asst. Chief Silver made a motion to purchase a new truck as designed. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Piscitelli and carried on a 5-0 vote.

### PRE-INCIDENT PLANS

There were no pre incident plans to review.

### OLD & NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Hamilton was informed that FF. Smith will start maternity leave on 6/29/19.
- Chief Hamilton and Asst. Chief Silver met with all members of Station 3 to go over some issues. Discussion took place. They had a list of items for the new truck. (The Board agreed to the flag on the front grill). The use of the chain of command for all issues was stressed. The group understood they are to go to the lieutenant first, then the captain, and finally to the assistant chief for any problem. They were also told that cleaning supplies and some station items should be purchased through the fire department and not with Station dues.
- Asst. Chief Gasco said he gives credit to the crew at Station 3 for attending the Town Meeting. He was upset that the rest of the department did not show up.
- Board members reviewed the changes to the Ambulance Assistance Guidelines. Discussion took place. Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion to accept the Ambulance Assistance Standard Operating Guideline with noted changes. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Silver and carried on a 5-0 vote. This will not be used for vehicle accidents-it is just for assisting the ambulance crew. Copies will be given to the ambulance crews and the dispatchers. For the record, the SOG is as follows: The Board of Fire Engineers has established the following procedure to handle any call for assistance to ambulances:

THE NEAREST ENGINE COMPANY will be toned to respond to the call for assistance. An **ALL CALL WILL NOT BE TONED REGARDLESS OF THE TIME OF DAY**. If additional assistance is needed, the dispatcher will be asked to tone another engine company. (This decision will be made by the officer-in-charge at the scene.)

The following levels of assistance should be used when dispatched (so firefighters will understand the urgency of the response and type of equipment needed).

- 1) **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:** (help needed ASAP). The nature of the emergency will be announced, for example: "The ambulance is requesting assistance with a cardiac arrest", etc.

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- 2) **EXTRICATION NEEDED:** This is for a response where specialized rescue tools are required to cut or dismantle something, for example: "Rescue is needed to extricate a patient stuck in the bathroom". HEADQUARTERS NEEDS TO BE TONED FOR THE RESCUE.
  - 3) **NON-EMERGENCY LIFT ASSIST:** For a medical call where the patient is larger or navigating the patient out of the house is challenging. This response is mainly for manpower. It should be announced "Respond for a non-emergency lift assist"
  - 4) **DRIVER NEEDED:** Request for a firefighter to drive the ambulance. It should be toned and an announcement made with the location (a nearby firefighter may respond directly to the scene).
- Granger Lynch will be burning off rubber at their plant on McCracken Road during the week. Keep this in mind if complaints are received.
  - The Town Manager requested a list of goals for FY20 from each department. Chief Hamilton suggested the following: new fire station, cancer prevention for firefighters, new Engine 3, new Hose 1, new Engine 4, new nozzles and adapters, maintenance and repairs of apparatus, maintenance of fire stations, add a backup communication site possibly at Clearview, and keep up the morale of the department. This is due 6/5/19. Board members will discuss this at the next meeting.
  - A mandatory Supervisor Safety Training session is scheduled for tomorrow from 9:00 am to noon at the Asa Waters Mansion for all department heads and key school personnel. Chief Hamilton will attend.
  - Litigation about ownership of the road at 4 Sutton Road is on going. Town officials met there this morning. Chief Hamilton brought a fire truck to see how much room is needed. It was determined that moving the fire hydrant back 3' will allow enough room for a fire truck and buses and allow the owner to keep the parking spots. The Town wants to settle this out of court.
  - The Ladies Auxiliary is planning a Wine Tasting. Proceeds will be used to purchase items for the fire department. Chief Hamilton suggested cordless tools. Asst. Chief Gasco asked for a chain saw rather than a cutoff saw. Chief Hamilton said the Auxiliary is helping a group from Northbridge to start their own Auxiliary.
  - Wheelabrator plans to make a donation to the fire department. The Board will draw up a list of needed equipment. One suggestion was a saw-z-all for each truck.
  - Chief Hamilton said Paxton Fire placed an ad for call firefighters. Requirements included a valid driver's license and a high school diploma or a general education diploma (G.E.D.). Chief Hamilton asked if Millbury wanted to make a high school diploma a requirement. Discussion took place. The Board agreed to review this at another time. Later in the meeting, it was determined that the Mass. Firefighting Academy requires a high school diploma or G.E.D. for entry into the Call/Volunteer Recruit

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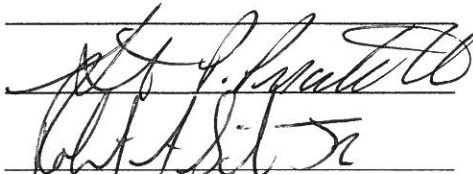
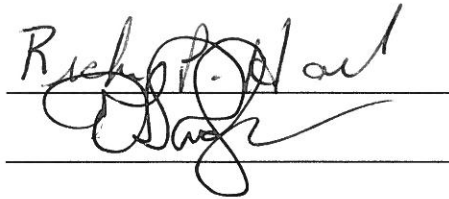
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Training Program. Asst. Chief Gasco made a motion that effective immediately a high school diploma or G.E.D. is required to become a member of the Millbury Fire Department due to the same requirement for admittance into the Mass. Firefighting Academy's recruit training program. This was seconded by Asst. Chief Silver and carried on a 5-0 vote.

- Engine 2 will go in for repairs this week. Chief Hamilton would like to keep an eye on bills and hold off doing other repairs until it's closer to the end of the fiscal year.
- Chief Hamilton told the Board the alarm system at the movie theater at the mall was no longer being monitored. An alarm company will be in tomorrow to address the issue.
- Asst. Chief Gasco will get information and quotes for a cordless chain saw.
- Asst. Chief Gasco asked about a Knox box at Cobblestone Village. He was told one box will be placed on the community building and will contain keys for the entire development.
- Asst. Chief Gasco would like Engine 1 to test the cistern at the Jessica J Ext. development. He will make arrangements. Deputy Chief Rudge said everyone should be familiar with this since any engine could be pumping.
- Asst. Chief Gasco asked about the status of the cistern at Paul Revere Village. Chief Hamilton thought it was recently replaced. He will follow up.
- Bert Davis will be scheduled to do aerial operations training for the full department in September. He will also do a practical class for Fire HQ at another time.
- Asst. Chief Silver would like to order a gear rack for Station 3. Capt. Swenson has the specs and Asst. Chief Silver would like to order one in June if funds are available.

Asst. Chief Piscitelli made a motion to adjourn at 20:30.

  
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