



BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT

3100 EAST AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14610-3522
(585) 381-3200 FAX (585) 586-3048
www.brightonfd.org

BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - 02/04/21

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Garrett, Commissioners Jeffries, Metzger, Potter, Wright, Chief Hiller, Executive Director Aroesty, Treasurer Howk, Business Manager Fitch, Executive Assistant Finizio and other public listeners. Absent: None.

CHAIRMAN GARRETT OPENED THE COMMISSION MEETING at 5:30pm. Good Evening Everyone. Today is Thursday, February 4, 2021 and we are at the Brighton Fire Commission meeting. I am Chairman Richard Garrett. We are meeting for the regularly scheduled time. It has been posted on our website, on our signboard, and our newspaper of record, the Brighton Pittsford Post. It is being held virtually as per the Governor's executive order. All of the Commissioners are present, as well as the Chiefs, Treasurer, Business Manager and Executive Assistant. A transcript will be available upon request at a later date. The meeting is being recorded. All Commissioners, please identify yourselves for motions and seconds to motions. He then asked if anyone had any questions about the process. Hearing none, we moved on to the Chief's report.

CHIEF HILLER'S REPORT said that there have been 177 calls year-to-date with nothing of significance since the last meeting.

Chief Hiller thanked the District for the chocolate pizza that arrived this afternoon. Chief Hiller is continuing his recovery from back surgery. All of the phone calls and support have been very much appreciated.

Chief Hiller said that he would yield the rest of the meeting time to the Executive Director, as he has quite a lengthy report tonight. He is covering most of what we need to talk about.

Chief Hiller had nothing to discuss in Executive Session.

Chairman Garrett asked if anyone had any questions of the Chief. There were none. Chairman Garrett asked that we move on to Executive Director Aroesty's report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY reported that 308 is nearing completion. It looks like we will be picking it up and bringing it back to Brighton tomorrow. That would be both the old and the new 308. The old 308 was at Churchville because it was having equipment taken off of it. Chairman Garrett asked which rescue was in service or if any rescue will be in service by the end of tomorrow. Executive Director Aroesty deferred to the Chief. Chief Hiller explained that once they come back, that neither will be in service. All of the drivers, who had done their driver training on the new rescue, will be given the opportunity to drive it full and heavy with equipment. We will work through that hopefully in the next week or so. Then the new rescue will be in service. Chairman Garrett then asked if for the foreseeable future of one week, we will continue with no rescue and finish out driver training on the new rescue. Chief Hiller confirmed that to be correct. Chairman Garrett added that we should make sure that we convey that clearly to the members so that when they see the two trucks,



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY CONTINUED

someone doesn't take it when they aren't supposed to. Chief Hiller said that the information about us being able to pick it up was just received this afternoon. Commissioner Jeffries asked if there was a plan for the old rescue. Chief Hiller answered that it will become the squad truck. Some of the members had indicated that they wanted a little bit bigger of a truck with a little bit more space and it does provide us with some additional capabilities. Commissioner Potter asked what the plan was for the existing squad vehicle and if it replaces 307. Chief Hiller answered that no, we have not identified what will happen with the current 3027. Even so, there will be a period of time that the current squad drivers will need to get up to speed on driver training on the old rescue. It will be largely status quo for a few months.

Executive Director Aroesty continued his report. Firefighter Eric Smith has let us know that he will be having surgery tomorrow and will be out for approximately four weeks. In addition to that, he let us know that he is being deployed on a combat deployment starting in July and will be gone for six months. We are working with the Union and our attorneys to sort out all of the moving parts to this. More to follow.

With Firefighter Heim retiring, we now have two group openings. We had posted the openings for anyone interested in transfers. Firefighter Dan O'Connell put in for a group transfer. He will start by going to group 3 while Firefighter Smith is out for his surgery, because group 3 was already down a firefighter, so they would have been down two firefighters. From February 11th to March 31st, Firefighter O'Connell will be on group 3. Then he will be continuing his journey to group 1. He will be starting there on April 6th for the balance of the year.

The Union Executive Board have let us know that they have selected Firefighter Jim Dailey as a replacement for Firefighter Heim on the Safety Committee.

The Hazard Plan that we've been working on is currently being reviewed by the Union, as is required by law. We'll be getting that back soon and finishing it up.

Executive Director Aroesty presented a resolution of a waiver for the requirements of paragraph A of subdivision 7, section 176B of New York State Town Law. This is relevant to the minimum percentage of volunteers that can live outside of the District. We will be submitting for a waiver and will need a resolution in order to do that. Commissioner Metzger made the motion and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion to approve the resolution for the application for a waiver for the number of volunteers who can live outside of the District and it was approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

The HAAS System, which is the vehicle alerting system that we had spoken about a few meetings back, is now installed in 307, 300 and 301. In the next few weeks, we're going to commence a public



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY CONTINUED

awareness campaign. It will involve the company reaching out to some of the media and getting it out there that we are now employing the system. We've been monitoring it on the web. It is working. Again, what it does, is it sends out a signal to oncoming vehicles that there is a fire apparatus up ahead. Hopefully, it will make our scenes safer, especially on and around expressways.

We also have a test camera coming to use at Station #1. Over half of the security cameras at Station #1 are not giving any signal and a few are giving poor pictures. The system is quite old and we need a replacement. More to follow on that later.

We're working on a plan to migrate from our current Google system, which is our mail and the Google drive that we use for document management. We are investigating migrating to Microsoft 365. We have some pricing. This would be a joint project with the Department. There will be some more information coming forward. Commissioner Metzger asked if our email addresses would change. Executive Director Aroesty answered that email addresses will not change. It will just be how it's handled that changes.

One of the things that we are working on is scoping out whether all of our data will need to move, i.e. old emails and that kind of thing. We'll probably determine whose information needs to move versus who doesn't because logging in to Gmail is still an option to see old stuff. For certain people, we will move stuff and for certain people we won't. It will be the same kind of thing on Google drive. Some things will be moved over and some things won't. That all drives the cost of the project. We are evaluating everything now and trying to make those determinations.

We're working right now to try and secure a replacement for 307. Just this afternoon, CNBC announced that Ford is looking at furloughing a portion of their workforce. There is a shortage on computer chips. That's going to slow production even further. Executive Director Aroesty is concerned on how we're going to get a new vehicle. It couldn't be a worse time to try and buy a vehicle. Chairman Garrett asked if we were all squared away with the insurance company. Executive Director Aroesty answered that yes, it has all been settled and that we have received a check for the vehicle as it stood. We have replacement value coverage, which would include what it actually costs us to replace the vehicle, the cost to upfit it and everything else. We have additional dollars that were due, but that is based on the actual cost. Once everything is said and done, we'll get another check. We have received the initial check from the insurance company.

Last week, a grant opportunity came up. We applied for it and were awarded a \$2,500 grant for a service called Lexipol. They are a service that helps review, do a Gap Analysis and update our policies and procedures. There's a training component that comes along with it. We're evaluating whether this is something we want to proceed with. The Brighton Police Department and Henrietta Fire



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY CONTINUED

District both use this service and they are very happy with it. More information will be forthcoming as we move along.

The generator project is moving along nicely. Station #3's generator is now installed and is up and running. The old generator has been removed. We still have Station #2 and Station #1 to complete.

Executive Director Aroesty asked for permission from the Board of Fire Commissioners to pull the civil service list as soon as it comes out. It is long overdue. We had communications with the County again today because last week they told us that the list would be out this week and we still haven't seen it. It's supposedly going to be out early next week. We were told today that they were waiting for a few more test scores. We're not sure what that means, but we are continuing to pressure them. With that, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, we are asking that the Commission authorizes the hire of up to two firefighters as soon as the list comes out and we are able to interview, as we are short two firefighters. The rationale for wanting to hire as soon as possible is that Henrietta is going to host a 229 class here in the County and it would be very advantageous for us to send our firefighters to that class versus sending them to Montour Falls. We would like to participate in that class. Commissioner Jeffries made the motion and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion that we pull the list and approve the hiring of up to two firefighters. Chairman Garrett asked if there was any further discussion. There was none and the motion carried.

Further with the 229 class, we would be looking to send all three of our firefighters to it. That would include Josh Welch, who is already hired and working and the two new firefighters that we would be hiring. We would also commit our MTO to assist, teach and work at that class, as we did at the class we did last fall. It worked out very well all the way around.

Last fall, we did a resolution to award LOSAP points for the March to June timeframe per the statutes that were passed in New York State due to COVID restrictions. There was a spike in COVID cases in December, and we would like to present a resolution to the Board of Fire Commissioners that we award five additional points for that month. Commissioner Jeffries made the motion and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion to approve awarding five LOSAP points for the month of December due to COVID restrictions. Chairman Garrett asked if there was any further discussion. There was none and the motion carried. Commissioner Jeffries asked how many total points have been awarded. Executive Director Aroesty answered that it would be a total of 20. From March through June, we awarded fifteen points. We didn't do anything for the rest of the period and then it would be five points for December. We've been judicious on when we have done it. The motion was approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

We have received a few thank you notes.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY CONTINUED

1. A woman sent us a thank you note with her great appreciation for the guys working at Station #1 at the time of her emergency. She did not specify the date or time. It's another example of our guys going above and beyond. She had run out of gas; the guys had provided her some and she was extremely appreciative.
2. Executive Director Aroesty received a phone message this week from a woman commending Dispatcher Weilert and saying what a treasure she is. She had called in because the hydrant in front of her house had been plowed in. She said Dispatcher Weilert had been helpful in getting her assistance and getting that situation rectified. So, again, our people are going above and beyond to help and how appreciative the community is with the help we provide. It's not just about going to calls, it's all of the service that we provide.
3. We also received a thank you note from Executive Director Aroesty, thanking the District for the chocolate pizza he received for his surgery. He suggested that everyone be careful drinking the water in the firehouse, because apparently there is something going around!

Executive Director Aroesty said that this was the end of his report and asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

Chairman Garrett said that we will move on to the Treasurer's report because he has another engagement later.

TREASURER HOWK requested permission to pay the invoices as audited. The abstracts and fund balance reports are available for review. Since the last Commission Meeting, we have spent \$259,169.61. A listing with all of the vouchers and amounts is attached inside the folder with the vouchers and Treasurer Howk is requesting that each Commissioner initial that sheet after they have reviewed it. It will be at the firehouse. A motion was made by Commissioner Potter and seconded by Commissioner Metzger to pay the bills as audited and the motion was approved unanimously by all of the Commissioners.

Treasurer Howk stated that he and Business Manager Fitch have been meeting with and have an additional meeting next week with our auditors. Most everyone is aware that we have had or know that we have been using a Trust & Agency Fund that is being changed drastically. We have a meeting with our auditors next Tuesday to go through four to five pages of this. This all goes under the new GASB 84 that New York State has come out with. It's just going to make it a little bit more complicated. The Tuesday meeting will be via Zoom. These are mandated changes by the State.

Chairman Garrett asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer's report. Seeing none, we moved on to the Business Manager's report.



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BUSINESS MANAGER FITCH reminded Treasurer Howk that he was going to report about the monies that we received in. Treasurer Howk asked Business Manager Fitch to cover that. Business Manager Fitch reported that we received our first installment of property taxes from the Town of Brighton in the amount of \$800,000. We will receive the rest of it this coming month.

Chairman Garrett asked if the Commissioners had anything to report. There was nothing.

Chairman Garrett reminded everyone that our next meetings are on Tuesday, February 16th and Thursday, March 4th.

Also, to make all of the Commissioners aware, the District received a communication from a resident, who wanted some general financial information. We have provided that to the individual. This is the second time to Chairman Garrett's knowledge that they have requested financial information from us. It was not last year, but in 2018.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FINIZIO requested approval of the minutes as submitted. A motion was made by Commissioner Potter and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve the minutes as submitted and the motion was unanimously approved by all of the Commissioners.

We have been notified by the Fire Department that they voted in new member Sean Tanny, Alex Brayer has returned to active status, Mike Hudson and Izzy Ramirez have both taken a leave of absence and Meghan Brennan has resigned.

Chairman Garrett then asked if there was anything else.

Chairman Garrett then asked if anyone else had anything additional for the regular portion of the meeting. Since there was nothing else, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Jeffries made the motion and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion that we adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Finizio

Executive Assistant / (Acting Secretary)