



BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT

3100 EAST AVENUE
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BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - 05/06/21

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Garrett, Commissioners Metzger, Jeffries, 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, May 6, 2021 and we are at the Brighton Fire Commission meeting. I am Chairman Richard Garrett. We are meeting at 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. A transcript will be available upon request at a later date. The meeting is being recorded. All Commissioners are present. Please identify yourselves for motions and seconds to motions. He then asked if anyone had any questions about the process. Seeing none, tonight the Firefighter's Association has a presentation and some information for us regarding step 2 of a grievance. The President of the Union, Doug Lee, is on and is going to do that first and then we will go on to the regular portions of the meeting. Chairman Garrett asked if there were any questions on any of that. Hearing none, we moved on to Union President Lee's presentation.

UNION PRESIDENT LEE asked for one moment of personal privilege, which was granted. As some may be aware, today is Union President Lee's 19th anniversary since being hired with the Brighton Fire District. That followed almost seven years of volunteering at Company 3 and it's a good day in so many ways. This is an amazing job, it's an amazing place to do it and he works with a lot of amazing people all throughout the organization. About 15 months before he got hired, he was asked if he wanted to interview. At that time, he had been working for Monroe County Child Protective Services, having just transferred there. He passed on the opportunity and told the Fire District that he had just transferred to this new position and wanted to give it a shot. He did request to stay on the list to be considered in the future. Luckily for him, 15 months later, the Fire District reached out and asked if he would like to interview and Union President Lee said yes! For those of you who don't know, Union President Lee announced that next May, he intends to retire. He didn't get hired at 21, like some of his coworkers! He was almost 34 years old. This is just to say thank you. It has been amazing. As you all know, we have our challenges. He expects the next year to be amazing and he is looking forward to it. He then thanked the Commissioners for letting him say that. He said he was saved from the Monroe County CPS, which was a very difficult place to be.

Regarding the grievance, it wasn't until 2:30pm this afternoon that the Commissioners were sent a summary of the Union's position on the grievance, as well as the original attachment of the finding of the grievance. The Union's position is relatively simple. On March 9th, Firefighter Lepkowski was excused to go to a special operations call out. It was Hilton, who had ice fishermen out on the lake and they were calling for special ops. Both Lieutenant Donovan and Firefighter Lepkowski assisted in rescuing about 10 of those fishermen that got stuck on different parts of the lake on floating pieces of ice. What they filed with the grievance is relatively simple. Union President Lee said he hoped that the Commissioners had a chance to look at his summary, but if not, he will review it briefly here. The Memorandum of Understanding that takes care of the special operations participation by the career staff, states that if there is an opening created by an absence when somebody is excused to respond for a special operations callout, that will be covered with a callback. When Union President Lee called the Dispatch office, the duty boss and the Director regarding the March 9th incident, the Director and Union President Lee had a difference of opinion, in that his interpretation says it doesn't apply to just a mere absence, but the absence needs to create a shortage or put us below our mutually agreed to, non-contractual



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UNION PRESIDENT LEE CONTINUED

minimum staffing number of six firefighters. Union President Lee disagreed and said that the minute somebody leaves, that creates an absence and it doesn't matter the number. That is where the grievance initially arose from. The Union's position hasn't changed. They did write it up and submitted it to the Director on March 26th. He then responded with the interpretation and the District's position. The next step for the Union is to merely write and request that we have a chance to have an audience with the Commission or their designee to lay out their position or their case. This is why Union President Lee is here tonight. He is glad to explain further and hopes that his summary made sense. If there are questions, he is happy to take them. Chairman Garrett let the Commissioners know that as per the contract agreement on how grievances are handled, tonight is the appropriate night for the presentation that Union President Lee just made. We have a 14-day period to get back to the Union regarding where we're going to go from here. That is the procedure unless anybody has any specific questions or does not understand what Union President Lee just said, which is fairly clear. We will take it under advisement and get back to you under the 14-day period that we are supposed to. Union President Lee added that he didn't do a good job on the summary that he had sent earlier. However, he did do a good job covering all of it in his statement. In the written summary, he got into the fact that when we have an agreement that we've negotiated and we have put to paper and sign off on it, members think that is not being followed, it really breaks down trust on their side of the table. He said that there is a paragraph about that in the statement. He thanked the Commissioners for their time. He also said that he was happy to be at the Commission meeting on his 19th anniversary and was happy to speak to the Commissioners.

Chairman Garrett told Union President Lee that he was welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting. We are going to go to the regular portions of the meeting. Our next portion is the Chief's report.

CHIEF HILLER stated that there have been 657 calls year-to-date with one call of significance since the last meeting. It was a call this past Sunday. It was a pediatric 500 call. The newly born patient was delivered to the hospital breathing. The last update that we received was that the baby was still in a hyperbaric chamber and intubated. Basically, the baby ingested meconium during the delivery, but that shouldn't take away from the absolutely remarkable work of the crew that was on scene. Initially, that was Acting Lieutenant Cline, Firefighters Eichas and Smith and later joined by Lieutenant MacAdam and Nick Hessong, who happens to be a pediatric ICU nurse, who went to the hospital and assisted. There were several more members on scene, but those are the folks who were primarily involved and did an outstanding job. Hopefully, we will have more information soon and the baby will continue to improve.

Chief Hiller has received a request from the Department Board regarding the fly car program. He is working on the running rules regarding the fly car program.

Chief Hiller had nothing to discuss in Executive Session.

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

CHAIRMAN GARRETT PRESENTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY'S REPORT ON HIS BEHALF. There was an old storage box from one of the old Tahoe's that we would like to surplus. He asks that we donate it to the County Fire Bureau. Chairman Garrett asked if we had to do that as a resolution so that we could declare something like that surplus. Treasurer Howk answered that it wouldn't hurt to do it as a resolution, although he added that he would think that the value is low enough that we wouldn't have to.



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CHAIRMAN GARRETT CONTINUED

Chairman Garrett then said we should do it as a motion. Commissioner Potter made the motion and Commissioner Wright seconded the motion we surplus an old storage box from one of the old Tahoe's and donate it to the County Fire Bureau. Chairman Garrett asked if everyone was in favor of that. All of the Commissioners were in favor and the motion carried.

We have been informed by the NYS Insurance Fund that we are being transferred out of our safety group effective July 1st of this year. This all resulted from one significant loss and will increase our workman's comp rates going forward.

Firefighter Tim Thompson has completed one year of service and his probationary period is over. We request that he be granted permanent status. Chairman Garrett asked if anyone had any comments or suggestions. There were none. He did say that he has seen and heard that Tim has been doing a good job. He then asked for a motion. On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Commissioner Metzger made the motion and Commissioner Wright seconded the motion that we remove Firefighter Tim Thompson from probationary status and grant him permanent status. Chairman Garrett asked if there was any further discussion. There was none and the motion carried.

We have received a thank you note from Janet O'Conner.

We have also extended a conditional offer of employment to a firefighter. That individual is now in the pre-employment process.

Firefighter Matt LaFave has given notice of his intent to transfer to Ridge Culver Fire District. His last day is to be determined, but we expect it to be in the next couple of weeks.

The Executive Director met all day with a consultant that is preparing our safety plan for the worker's compensation board. Lieutenant Gulick and SEC Tracy were involved as well and are to be thanked for their assistance. This is relating back to the significant loss that he referred to earlier.

Our new recruits are doing well at the Academy. Executive Director went there last week to observe one of the live fire evolutions.

That is the end of Executive Director Aroesty's report. Chairman Garrett asked if anyone had any questions on the report.

Union President Lee signaled that he had a question. He thanked the Commissioners for granting Tim Thompson his off-probationary status. He thought that Jamie Pittinaro had been hired first and should be taken off probation in that order. Executive Director Aroesty answered that we did that at the last meeting. Union President Lee said that was what he had been looking for and thanked the Executive Director. Chairman Garrett added that he thought that we were all up-to-date on those.

Seeing no other questions on Executive Director Aroesty's report, we will move on to the Commissioners reports.



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COMMISSIONER POTTER reported that he and Commissioner Wright would be going to Syracuse tomorrow for the State Fire District Officers Association convention and election. One of the attendees needs to be delegated as a voting delegate for the elections tomorrow. We only get one vote for the District, but one of them needs to be authorized for that role. Commissioner Metzger asked if Commissioner Potter was making a recommendation on which Commissioner to delegate as the one to vote. Commissioner Potter answered that no, he was not making a recommendation and for the other Commissioners to pick. Chairman Garrett said that he needed somebody to make a motion that we authorize Commissioner Potter or Commissioner Wright to represent us at the meeting tomorrow. Commissioner Wright made the motion and Commissioner Metzger seconded the motion that Commissioner Potter be the delegate and vote on behalf of the District at the State Fire District Officers Association meeting tomorrow. Chairman Garrett asked if everyone was in favor. They were and the motion carried.

Chairman Garrett asked if there was anything else to report. There was nothing else from the other Commissioners.

Chairman Garrett said that he had spoken to Treasurer Howk and Business Manager Fitch about the Commission Meetings going forward for this summer. They looked at the schedule for meetings that would work. Chairman Garrett asked Business Manager Fitch if she had that list handy. Business Manager Fitch answered that she would get it. Chairman Garrett continued and said that he would like to schedule two meetings per month. Some of them may be very quick, just to get the bills paid. There are a couple of switches from the third Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday. We can go through it quickly now and they will be in the minutes so that everybody can get them into their calendars. Business Manager Fitch asked Chairman Garrett if he wanted her to send him the dates. He answered no and for her to go through them quickly. They would be on June 3rd and June 22nd and we would not have a meeting on June 15th. In July, we would do it on July 8th and July 20th but we would cancel July 1st. In August, we would do August 5th and August 24th but we would cancel August 17th. Chairman Garrett added that in September we would probably meet on the first Thursday of September. Commissioner Metzger announced that he would be out of town on June 22nd, but he might be able to attend the meeting via Zoom. Chairman Garrett said that we will get these dates out. They will be in the minutes so that people can get them down added to their calendars.

Chairman Garrett asked if any other Commissioners had anything to report at this point. There was nothing additional. We moved on to the Treasurer's report.

TREASURER HOWK requested permission to pay the invoices as audited, the abstract and fund balance reports have been prepared and are available for review by the Commissioners. Since our last meeting, we have spent \$365,428.73. A list of these expenditures is included with the vouchers. Treasurer Howk is requesting that each Commissioner please initial the list after they have reviewed it. The Treasurer certifies that he has previously reviewed the purchase orders, and budget and certifies that there are sufficient funds in the budget to pay these invoices. A motion was made by Commissioner Potter and seconded by Commissioner Wright to pay the bills as audited and the motion was approved unanimously by all of the Commissioners.

Chairman Garrett asked Treasurer Howk if he had anything else to report. Treasurer Howk answered that no, that was all he had.



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Chairman Garrett said that we should move on to the Business Manager's report.

BUSINESS MANAGER FITCH thanked the Commissioners and the District for allowing her to attend the training today with the Association of Fire Districts. She went for the Treasurer and Secretary training and it was outstanding. Chairman Garrett thanked Business Manager Fitch for putting in the time and effort to attend.

Chairman Garrett asked if Business Manager Fitch had anything else to report. There was nothing else. We moved on to Executive Assistant Finizio's report.

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

We've been notified by the Fire Department that Josh Rubin was voted in as a new volunteer firefighter.

Chairman Garrett asked if there was anything else for the regular portion of meeting. There was nothing. He then asked for an Executive Session to discuss one legal matter. He asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Commissioner Potter made the motion and Commissioner Wright seconded the motion that we go into Executive Session at 5:51pm to discuss one legal item.

Commissioner Jeffries made the motion and Commissioner Wright seconded the motion that we come out of Executive Session at 6:05pm where no action was taken.

Commissioner Metzger made the motion and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Finizio
Executive Assistant / (Acting Secretary)