



BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT

3100 EAST AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14610-3522
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www.brightonfd.org

BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - 07/08/21

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

CHAIRMAN GARRETT OPENED THE COMMISSION MEETING at 5:30pm.

CHIEF HILLER reported that there have been 1,018 calls year-to-date with two calls of significance since the last meeting. They were both working fires. One of them was on June 23rd on Edgemoor Road. There was a victim that had passed away before our arrival. The second fire was on June 29th on Kirk Drive.

We met last week with ECD on some procedural issues and dispatch errors that have occurred lately. They seem to persist. ECD has been very responsive. They are trying to figure out what they have got going on. They are short-staffed like everybody else. They are taking a series of steps to make it easier on the dispatchers. They have a quick reference guide, which was basically meant for them to look and quickly identify what to do in a certain situation. It actually made things worse. As of today, the quick reference guide has been eliminated. Hopefully, the new CAD can populate with the right response and be dispatched correctly. We were the last agency that had something like that. If you think about 30-something agencies, that want things 30 different ways, it does make things somewhat difficult. Hopefully, with the elimination of that, things will improve. Commissioner Jeffries added that when the ECD personnel were trained in the past, they were trained on fire, police and EMS; all at the same time and now, ECD is breaking it down for them. So, if ECD gets someone trained on fire, they can put them on the line. Chief Hiller continued and said that part of the conversation that he needs to have with the Line Officers is for them to be clear on what they want because ECD doesn't want to make mistakes and they won't be able to arbitrarily decide what they think you mean. We will continue to chip away at it as best as we can.

That is the end of Chief Hiller's report. He 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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY reported that Executive Order 202, which is what we've been doing our COVID Zoom function under, was rescinded on 6/29, so no more Zoom meetings.

Effective June 30, 2021, Firefighter Copey has retired from the Brighton Fire District. We wish him well in his retirement.

We are continuing the interview process for the Lieutenant candidates. We are progressing through that process.

New recruits began working with their groups this past Monday. Josh Rathbun is on group 1, Ben Tuyn is on group 2, Josh Welch is on group 3 and Lindsey Davis is on group 4. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the training. There have been a lot of hours put in over the last number of weeks to get the new recruits up and running. They are doing an excellent job.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY CONTINUED

Acting Lieutenant Dailey painted the letters and numbers on the front of the building at Station #1. The previous ones had faded and were matching the brick. They were barely visible. Now, they look really sharp. Acting Lieutenant Dailey saw it needed to be done and asked for permission to do it. He did it, it got done and it looks great. Great job, Acting Lieutenant Dailey!

Firefighter Kenny completed the installation of the security cameras at Station #1. We now have 12 exterior cameras that monitor the entire perimeter of the outside of the building. That culminates security cameras at all three buildings now. Firefighter Kenny did the installation at all three buildings. He did an amazing job with the whole project!

Executive Director Aroesty asked for permission to send up to 10 firefighters to VCOS. We participated with the Fire Department board to come up with that number. With that authorization, we would prefer everyone to stay at the conference hotel. The entire conference is held at that hotel. Taking transportation from another hotel would be economically not efficient. We are constantly in and out of meetings. It just wouldn't make any sense. Commissioner Wright made the motion and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion that we authorize up to 10 firefighters to attend VCOS and stay at the conference hotel. Chairman Garrett asked if there were any questions. There were none and the motion carried.

Last week, 301 struck a parked car in our parking lot. It was the vehicle of one of our employees during a training exercise. It has been referred to the Safety Committee for review.

Firefighter Lacey will be attending training at the NYS Chief's Fire Conference next week in Syracuse from 7/14-7/17/21. Of note, he will be driving to and from the conference each day. That was significantly cheaper than him staying overnight. With the conference training starting each day at 9am, there was more than enough time to commute back and forth. The conference wraps up each day at 4:30pm. Executive Director Aroesty talked to Firefighter Lacey and together, they decided that it would be better to commute.

We began using the Haas System in January. It is a device that is in both of the quints and 307. That's what sends out a signal to the users of Waze. We have alerted over 2,700 motorists within that timeframe that we were on scenes for emergencies. It's an early warning system. Haas will be adding another major map app in the next 30-60 days. That map app is significantly larger than Waze. We believe that it will either be Google Maps or Apple Maps. Our trial with them has ended. Executive Director Aroesty is asking permission from the Board of Fire Commissioners to extend into a five-year contract with them for \$1,197 per year. There is no penalty for early termination. So, after a year, if we don't like it anymore, we can cancel it. The five-year price per year is less than the three-year price per year which is less than the one-year price per year. Commissioner Metzger questioned that it was \$1,197 for the alert for their app. He also asked what their relationship with the apps was. Executive Director Aroesty answered that Haas enters the information in to the apps. They don't get anything back from the apps. They negotiate to get into the apps. What happens is if you're using Waze, you'd get a signal that says "fire apparatus ahead," so you'd slow down. If you're not using an app, but are near the cars that are slowing down, you have to slow down because of the other cars slowing down. What we haven't done yet, which we would do when we go past the trial period is to start doing some



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY

PR stuff regarding this. Executive Director Aroesty said that he has seen some of the PR spots that they have done on a national level with other places, so this would be good for public awareness. What he would like to see happen next is for DOT to get the signals, which they can do and tying it into message boards, which would be the next level to take this too. Commissioner Potter made the motion and Commissioner Jeffries seconded the motion that we renew our contract with the Haas System for up to five years at a cost of \$1,197 per year. Chairman Garrett asked if there were any further questions or discussion. There were none and the motion carried.

The last item that Executive Director Aroesty reported on, was that the District and the Department are working together to finalize planning for a recognition event to catch up on a bunch of recognitions such as promotions, new hires and new members. This would be like the banquet type of acknowledgment. This didn't happen at the banquet because we didn't have one this past year. That date is August 9th. It will be at the Monday Department meeting. The general gist of it is a ceremony, there will be an ice cream truck. For the attendees, there will be a social/recognition event. More to follow on that. Commissioner Jeffries asked for the start time of the event. Executive Director Aroesty answered that we are leaning toward a 7pm start time. Commissioner Metzger asked if it would just be firefighters. Executive Director Aroesty confirmed just firefighters at this point.

Executive Director Aroesty said that was all he had to report unless anybody had any questions. He had nothing to discuss in Executive Session.

Chairman Garrett asked if there were any questions of the Executive Director. There were none.

Chairman Garrett asked if any of the attendees had anything to add. There was nothing.

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

Chairman Garrett said that the next Commission Meeting would be on July 20th, August 5th and August 24th but we would cancel August 17th. Regarding September, the first Thursday is two days before Labor Day. Commissioner Jeffries said he was out of town. Chairman Garrett asked about moving the meeting to the following week, which would be the Thursday after Labor Day. Commissioner Jeffries said he was out of town then too. Commissioner Metzger ask if we should do only one meeting in September. Business Manager Fitch answered that we needed two meetings because of the bills. Commissioner Wright asked if we should meet the second week of September. Chairman Garrett said we would do September 9th and September 21st.

We moved on to the Treasurer's report.

TREASURER HOWK reported that the good news is that we received the two percent funds from the State. We have split it up between the Association and the Department, who have both been notified. We will distribute the checks after the vouchers have been approved. Commissioner Jeffries asked if it was more or less than last year. Treasurer Howk answered that it was pretty darn close. The total was \$79,360.



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TREASURER HOWK CONTINUED

We had quite a problem with the payroll today. This was the first live payroll that we had with Benecare. Everything was done properly by Business Manager Fitch. Benecare followed all of the steps that they were supposed to follow. Their bank is Canandaigua National Bank. Somehow, someone at the bank had put a hold on the transfer and all of the payroll. So, starting at 6am this morning, Business Manager Fitch was notified that the money was not in some employee's accounts. We spent an awful lot of time between Treasurer Howk, Executive Director Aroesty and Business Manager Fitch in working with the banks and trying to get things taken care of. The biggest problem was that they really couldn't figure out what was wrong and why it happened. Commissioner Jeffries asked if this was a new payroll company. Treasurer Howk answered that it was a first time for us with Benecare. We switched from Paychex. Everyone really cooperated extremely well. One option we had, which we did go to was to get live checks printed. We had them this afternoon. So, if anyone had to have a check, they could have a live check. The problem is, they come and pick up a check here and go to the bank and deposit it, the bank might put a 3 day hold on it. Commissioner Metzger said that usually, there are no holds on payroll checks. Treasurer Howk agreed that the bank wouldn't put a hold on a payroll check but questioned how long it would be. The money will be in their accounts tomorrow. We got it straightened out. Benecare said they would do whatever they could to get it taken care. Some of the money should be in the employees accounts today, this afternoon and tonight. The rest of the banks will be for sure tomorrow. Acting Lieutenant Benson looked at his bank account app and saw that he received his paycheck. Commissioner Metzger asked when the last time he looked was and A/L Benson answered around lunch time. Commissioner Metzger added that changing anything like that is a nightmare. Treasurer Howk continued that we did have live checks and we notified everyone that we did have live checks available if they needed it. He then asked Business Manager Fitch how many she distributed. She answered zero, but that they were locked up! Treasurer Howk stated that we have been assured that this would never happen again.

The workers comp audit for the last term has been completed and submitted.

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 \$329,250.91. A list of these expenditures is included with the vouchers. Treasurer Howk requested that each Commissioner please initial the list after they have reviewed it. He 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.

That is the end of Treasurer Howk's report.

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

BUSINESS MANAGER FITCH thanked both Executive Director Aroesty and Treasurer Howk for helping her with the payroll situation. They all spent hours working with Benecare and getting everything straightened out. She appreciates their support in helping us navigate through this.



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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 Jeffries and seconded by Commissioner Potter 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 Spence Kennedy and Brittany Myers have gone out on medical leave and that Tim Boucher has moved.

Executive Director Aroesty said he was trying to plan ahead. The meeting in October for the inspection dinner. Normally, we would do it at the Department meeting. Executive Director Aroesty is out of the office from October 4th through October 11th. Would there be objections on doing it on October 18th. Commissioner Jeffries stated that he was also out on October 4th and 11th. Commissioner Metzger asked if doing it in September would be better. Chairman Garrett asked if we were trying to do it on the same day as the Department meeting. Executive Director Aroesty proposed doing it on September 13th. Commissioner Wright added that September 16th is when a group would be headed up to Old Forge. Executive Director Aroesty is planning for the Inspection Dinner to be on Monday, September 13th.

Chairman Garrett asked if there was anything else for the regular portion of meeting.

Commissioner Jeffries made the motion and Commissioner Metzger seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Finizio
Executive Assistant / (Acting Secretary)