



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 – 11/4/21

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Garrett, Commissioners Jeffries, Potter, Wright, Chief Hiller, Executive Director Aroesty, Treasurer Howk, Business Manager Fitch, Deputy Chief Peartree, Lieutenant Donovan and Firefighter Laraby.

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

CHIEF HILLER stated that there have been 1,920 calls year-to-date.

Chief Hiller stated there was a meeting with the Executive Chiefs in the County and representatives of 911. There will be changes but nothing really impacts the operations for the moment but we will be adding some event types so we will start seeing different codes. These event codes will not address the issues that we have been having.

Chief Hiller received a nice letter from a Brighton citizen regarding Firefighters Ellman and Hare. Firefighters Ellman and Hare fielded a phone call and went to the citizen's house and it was noted that both the firefighters went above and beyond. Chief Hiller will scan the letter and send to everyone. Chief Hiller spoke to her on the phone and she was appreciative and said nice things about Business Manager Fitch getting us to that point.

This is the end of Chief Hiller's report. Chief Hiller said he had nothing for Executive session.

Chairman Garrett asked if anyone had any questions on the Chief's report. There were none.

Chairman Garrett said we will move on to the Executive Director's report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY stated that we received a notification from the AFG grant program denying our 2020 application. Executive Director is asking permission to reapply under the 2021 program and engage our grant writer to reapply for \$500 which will open in a week or so. We applied for a cascade system, since our current cascade system needs to be replaced. The grant is approximately \$80,000 towards replacing the cascade system. The Commissioners gave Executive Director Aroesty approval to move forward with the grant.

Executive Director Aroesty stated that we were notified by New York State that our Section 176-B Waiver was approved for the record. This will allow us to go over the 45% rule for volunteer membership outside of the District.

Executive Director Aroesty received a letter from Doug Lee indicating his intent to retire on May 27, 2022.



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BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 11/4/21 PAGE 2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY CONTINUED**

Executive Director Aroesty received a letter from Rick Tracy indicating his intent to retire on March 30, 2022. The District is exploring options to have Rick Tracy to continue his work as a SEC on a part time basis. The District will have more on that to follow.

This will leave the VRCC position open. Executive Director Aroesty is working with the Department to see what this would like look moving forward.

Executive Director Aroesty said we received a thank you from Firefighter Cologgi for an acknowledgment when their baby was born.

Executive Director Aroesty said we received a thank you note from Dispatcher Nancy Weilert for an acknowledgment for when she was out for her surgery.

Executive Director Aroesty received a request from Andy McNeil to use the basement at Station 1 for the New York State Police Crash Investigation training course on Thursday, December 9. Commissioners approved this request.

Executive Director Aroesty is requesting permission to pull the Civil Service List to interview and potentially hire up to three firefighters to fill current and anticipated openings.

Chairman Garrett asked if there were any questions. There were none. A motion was made by Commissioner Potter and seconded by Commissioner Jeffries for Executive Director Aroesty to pull the Civil Service list and the motion was approved unanimously by all of the Commissioners.

Executive Director Aroesty received some inquiries regarding President Biden's mandate for testing and/or vaccinations for employers over 100 employees which will be in affect after the holidays. At this time, we have a lot more questions than we do answers. We do not know how this affects us and we are looking for guidance relative to if it's for paid employees, which we are under 100, or do we have to include the volunteers with the paid employees which we are over 100. Are municipalities exempt from this? We have a lot of questions. We will be seeking guidance. Executive Director Aroesty asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

Executive Director Aroesty had some documentation that will require Chairman Garrett's signature for processing fees for our annual LOSAP that is due. The plan itself pays the fees.

Executive Director Aroesty was forwarded a number of items from the Line officers that bolster our equipment ranks. In reviewing with Treasurer Howk, we are looking to replace some water vacs, power hose roller for the 5-inch, replacing some ticks on the front-line engines and some additional ticks to be strategically placed with some of the officers, a new Hurst Strong Arm appliance to replace the seat cutter that we currently have, accountability parts, sensit mounts, water rescue ropes, water rescue helmets,



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progressive flare system. All of this is not to exceed \$39,000. There was a motion made by Commissioner Jeffries and seconded by Commission Potter for the Executive Director to purchase these items not to exceed \$39,000 and the motion was approved unanimously by all of the Commissioners.

Executive Director Aroesty said he had one matter for Executive Session to discuss the ongoing negotiations.

Chairman Garrett asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

Firefighter Laraby asked Executive Director about the COVID vaccination. If we have the two doses, are we going to be required to get the COVID booster or are we going to be required to get it. Executive Director Aroesty does not believe the current mandate requires the booster; however, we are looking for clarification.

Chairman Garrett mentioned that Executive Director Aroesty sent out an email regarding the COVID boosters. Chairman Garrett asked the Executive Director to send out the email again regarding the COVID boosters so that the employees and volunteers know that we are not doing the boosters but is available.

Chairman Garrett asked if anyone else had any questions. There we were none.

We moved onto the Treasurer's report.

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 \$220,795.35. 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. A motion was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Potter to pay the bills as audited and the motion was approved unanimously by all of the Commissioners.

Treasurer Howk stated that since our last meeting, we closed our checking account where the fraudulent check was written against and all of those checks have been returned and the bank closed that account.

Treasurer Howk reported that we have received our invoices from New York State. We had budgeted \$78,000 for the Employers Retirement System; the invoice came in at \$71,252.00. For the Police and Fire, we had budgeted \$768,000 and the actual invoice came in at \$707,599. So, we are in good condition with both of those financially.

Treasurer Howk had nothing further to report.



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Chairman Garrett asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

BUSINESS MANAGER FITCH is requesting approval of the minutes as submitted. A motion was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Potter to approve the minutes as submitted and the motion was unanimously approved by all of the Commissioners.

Business Manager Fitch was notified by the Department that Scott Winslow has moved and has a new address.

We will be hosting a blood drive at Station #1 from 9 AM – 2 PM on Saturday, December 18, 2021.

The Red Cross blood drive last month collected 28 units of blood reaching 127% of their goal.

Business Manager Fitch reported that we have implemented a service called positive pay administered by M & T Bank on our existing accounts. This morning M & T Bank alerted Treasurer Howk and myself that one of our checks was being questioned. We approved the check.

Chairman Garrett confirmed that this service is not an expense to the District.

Business Manager Fitch has nothing further to report.

Chairman Garrett then asked if anyone else had anything additional for the regular portion of the meeting. There were none.

Chairman Garrett said that our next Commission Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 16th at 5:30 pm; Thursday, December 2nd at 5:30 pm; December 14th which is Election night at 7:30 pm and Wednesday, December 29th at 5:00 pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jeffries and seconded by Commissioner Wright to go into Executive Session at 5:46 pm to discuss a personnel item.

A motion was made Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Potter to come out of Executive Session at 6:22 pm, where no action was taken.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Potter to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Fitch
Business Manager/ (Acting Secretary)