



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 – 11/16/21

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Garrett, Commissioners Jeffries, Potter, Wright, Chief Hiller, Executive Director Aroesty, Treasurer Howk, Business Manager Fitch, Deputy Chief Peartree, Captain Hahn, Union President Lee and Firefighters Lacey and Rathbun.

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

CHIEF HILLER stated that there have been 2,027 calls year-to-date with nothing of significance since the last meeting.

Chief Hiller stated that our career recruits graduated from the academy today; however, Firefighter Greene was absent due to illness. Chief Hiller stated that the career recruits have started work so please introduce yourselves to them.

Chief Hiller is requesting permission to take 305 and 3028 to go out of the District on December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd to participate in the "Good Night Lights" event at the Golisano Children's Hospital. Approved.

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 he wanted to bring the Commissioners up-to-date with the continual problems with our current physical provider, Pulse. Executive Director Aroesty and Business Manager Fitch have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021 to work on improvements and if this cannot happen, we will be looking for alternatives.

Executive Director Aroesty stated that he wanted to thank the Commissioners for sending a group to VCOS this year. The conference was excellent, good topics were presented and hopefully everyone brought back some great ideas. Executive Director Aroesty stated that the other good benefit out of this conference is the camaraderie and bonding with each other.

Executive Director Aroesty stated that the District, Union and the officers were able to reach agreements with a better understanding moving forward. The officers have recently joined the Union and we have reached an agreement through the end of the contract in 2023. The negotiations should start some time in 2023 for the next contract.



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BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 11/16/21 PAGE 2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AROESTY CONTINUED**

Executive Director Aroesty stated that we reached an agreement with the Union regarding some changes that we are putting in place hopefully helping our career firefighters to have a better sense of feeling valued by the District.

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 anyone had any questions of the Executive Director. There were none.

UNION PRESIDENT LEE asked that he share the appreciation by the career staff. Union President Lee stated that over the past several months, there have been meetings with the continual message what we need to do to move the needle so the career staff want to be here and do not want to look elsewhere. Union President Lee stated that recently we signed a few agreements due to everyone being committed to getting these done before fall. Union President Lee said in particular he wanted to thank Chairman Garrett, Chief Hiller, Executive Director Aroesty and Commission Metzger for the time and effort that was put in to these agreements. Union President Lee said his message to the Union this past week, and will be verbally in the upcoming days, this is huge, the needle moved. Union President Lee stated this year has been strange in that we have dealt with COVID, letters that were sent which were difficult to deal with, and the leaving of 7 firefighters. Union President Lee said you look at all of the events that have happened, and on the other side of the ledger starting on January 1, we have 8 officers and new firefighters coming in the door. Union President Lee stated that the Executive Director and him looked at when Executive Director Aroesty started and how we were running one firefighter per truck. Union President Lee said when he started, we had one duty boss and one firefighter on a truck, 4 pieces were our minimum. Union President Lee said now we are up to two per piece when we are fully staffed. Union President Lee said we have moved in a good solid direction and the firefighters are voicing their appreciation of what is happening. Union President said thanks again.

Union President Lee said that was all he had to report unless anybody had any questions.

Commissioner Metzger thanked Union President Lee for helping to make this happen.

Chairman Garrett asked if anyone had any questions of Union President Lee. There were none.

Chairman Garrett asked if anyone else had any questions, comments.

CAPTAIN HAHN stated that this is good stuff, everyone was concerned about when the officers chose to join the Union and we should all look at this as a good thing because we are unified. Captain Hahn said the officers are more committed now than they ever had been to the organization and to the District.



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BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 11/16/21 PAGE 3

Commissioner Jeffries thanked Captain Hahn.

Union President Lee said one of the benefits having the officers in the Union is the tone in the room is different with the officers and their perspective. Union President Lee said we now have senior officers in the room and with the new guys, they don't know the past, so having the officers there is a benefit for all of us.

Chairman Garrett asked if any of the Commissioners had anything.

Commissioner Metzger thanked everyone for sending him to VCOS and appreciated the bonding that the group had.

Commissioner Metzger said that we had a recruitment session a month ago. We had 7 fire district residents which is a huge increase in the number that we are getting. We interviewed 3 this past week. One was 20, one was 40 and one was 50. They all want to be interior firefighters.

Chairman Garrett thanked Commissioner Metzger for all of that hard work.

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

Chairman Garrett said that our next Commission Meeting will be on Thursday, December 2nd at 5:30 pm; December 14th which is Election night at 7:30 pm; Wednesday, December 29th at 5:00 pm and the Organizational Meeting is January 6th at 5:30 pm.

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 \$943,167.31. Treasurer Howk stated that out of the \$943,167.31, we paid \$778,851.00 for the two retirement plans. 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 Potter and seconded by Commissioner Wright to pay the bills as audited and the motion was approved unanimously by all of the Commissioners.

Treasurer Howk had nothing further to report.



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BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 11/16/21 PAGE 4

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 Potter and seconded by Commissioner Metzger to approve the minutes as submitted and the motion was unanimously approved by all of the Commissioners.

Business Manager Fitch has nothing further to report.

Chairman Garrett mentioned that Governor Hochul signed legislation amending the Open Meetings Law requiring that our meeting minutes be posted within two weeks on our website. Chairman Garrett said moving forward we will post a draft of the meeting minutes on our website until the minutes are approved at our next commission meeting.

Executive Director Aroesty had one item for Executive Session regarding a personnel matter.

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

Chairman Garrett thanked Union President Lee for his comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Potter and seconded by Commissioner Wright to go into Executive Session at 5:43 pm to discuss a personnel item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jeffries and seconded by Commissioner Wright to come out of Executive Session at 5:48 pm, where no action was taken.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jeffries and seconded by Commissioner Wright to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Fitch
Business Manager/ (Acting Secretary)