

068

The Board of Fire Commissioners
Portsmouth Fire Department

Fire Station 2
George Pierce Training Room
August 8, 2023

Portsmouth, NH
1800 hours

I. Call to Order:

Chairwoman Matthes called the meeting to order at 1800 hours.

II. Pledge of Allegiance with Attendance:

Chairwoman Matthes led the pledge of allegiance.

Present were Commissioners: Jennifer Matthes, Richard Gamester and Michael Hughes; Fire Chief William McQuillen, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Gionet, Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Howe, Administrative Manager Tracy Freeman, Lieutenant Garrett Miller, Firefighter Timothy Cole and a member of the public.

III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to approve the minutes of July 11, 2023, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment Session: None.

V. Recognition of Groups or Individuals: None.

VI. Presentation of Written Communications: None.

VII. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Commissioner Gamester motioned to discuss Chief's reports 23-060 through 23-063. Motion was seconded by Chairwoman Matthes.

Chief McQuillen reviewed reports with the Commission.

Report (060), 2023 Response Report for July 2023. The report shows the department responding to a total of 447 calls for the month: 113 Fire Calls and 334 Ambulance Calls. Chief spoke briefly about some of the activities for the month, noting a tractor trailer unit caught in wires along Grafton and Aviation Drive, Mutual Aid calls to Hampton, Rye and two to Greenland. Also noted

was a car vs. moped accident at Middle St. and Miller Ave with one patient transported as a trauma alert to PRH. The safety message focused on the use of charcoal and gas grills. Report (061), Fire and EMS Call Summary Reports, shows the department responded to 113 fire calls for the month of July. EMS activity was 336 with the top three responses being for weakness, cardiac and trauma or injury to head/scalp. There were 5 calls for suicidal or self-harm ideation or thoughts, 8 drug overdose/abuse and 66 non-transport. Report (062), FY23 Budget, Chief reviewed the budget which is ending with a surplus mostly in part to vacancies and leave usage being down from what previous years had recorded. Report (063), Overtime Analysis, provided a breakdown of how overtime was used in the month of July along with a summary of what was charged to OT-Recall for the month.

Motion, to accept Chief's Reports 23-060 through 23-063, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

B. Staff Reports:

Assistant Chief reported on facilities and operations happening within the department. Station 2 boiler project is nearing completion, HVAC systems were serviced as part of the semi-annual service agreement, Station 2 had some roof work done as a result of the roofing study. New utility vehicle is currently out for lettering and will be outfitted with lights and radios in the next couple of weeks. Ambulance 3 repaired following an exhaust issue. Currently have 4 vacancies and one conditional offer made and accepted. Planning on holding firefighter candidate interviews on August 23rd. We have two firefighters who have successfully completed their probationary period with another expected to complete theirs next month. Swearing in ceremony will take place at September's Fire Commission meeting.

Deputy Chief Howe reported on Prevention and the multitude of construction projects that are kicking off at the same time and/or will be kicking off while the others are still ongoing that are creating significant concerns related to impacts on access, parking, pedestrian safety, etc. Portsmouth 400 events still taking place with the Little Italy Carnival last weekend that was well attended. Street Life dinner is next week.

VIII. Old Business: None.

IX. New Business:

Chief McQuillen informed the Commission of the resignations of Probationary Firefighter Cameron and Probationary Firefighter Sheldon.

Motion, to accept the resignations from Probationary Firefighter Cameron and Probationary Firefighter Sheldon, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gamester and passed unanimously.

Chief McQuillen spoke briefly of the \$200 donation to the department he received from Lloyd Woodruff.

Motion, to accept the generous donation of \$200 from Lloyd Woodruff with gratitude, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

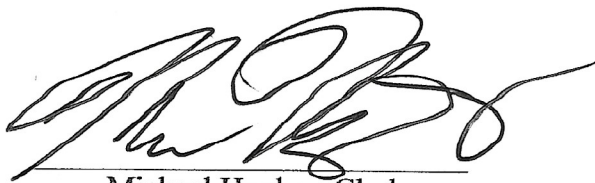
Chief McQuillen led discussion on the purchase of SCBA Safety Equipment and the need for upgraded equipment that will increase the safety and health of the firefighters on the fireground. Bid awarded to Industrial Protection Services. The upgrades would include 8 additional airpaks for the new ambulance and upgrading the C5 facepieces to ones with wireless radio communications capabilities. Total project cost would be at bid award of \$615,000.00. The City received a FY21 Federal Fire Acts Grant which will fund \$333,294.54 and FY24 Capital will support \$185K (to include the 10% required match for the grant) and if approved, the use of Geraldine Webber would support the remaining costs.

The Chief noted that this project puts everything on the same cycle. Some of our current air bottles have cycled out and expired, however, the vendor has been able to find some replacements. Chairwoman Matthes inquired about warranties. The Chief replied that there are no warranties, however, equipment is insured on City's policy.

Motion, to approve the Fire Chief to use Webber Bequest funding in support of the upgraded SCBA Safety Equipment at a cost not to exceed \$100,000, was made by Commissioner Hughes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gamester and passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment:

Motion, to adjourn at 1830 hours, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Chairwoman Matthes and passed unanimously.



Michael Hughes, Clerk