

Special Meeting of the Blue Hills Fire Commission/Budget Workshop Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Where: Blue Hills Fire Department

Time: 6pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai at 6:05pm.

Roll Call/Quorum/Commissioners Present:

Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Jacqueline Massey-Greene and Mark Manson. Also present were: Chief Willie Jones, Deputy Chief Fred Nelson, Jr and Errol Bartley Director of Finance and Administration.

Verification of Public Notice

The meeting notices was posted on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 and amended and reposted on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 in the Hartford Courant Public Notice Section, The Blue Hills Fire Department Website, The Commissioner's Outside Sign Board and The Blue Hills Fire Department Signage Boards.

Appointment of Temporary Department Assistant

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that the current Clerk, Val Thompson had resigned from her position on Monday, April 15th and being that the Fire Department has a lot of business that needs to be attended to, she spoke with Donna Banks who's term don't start until July 1st to see if she will be willing to fill in as Temporary Clerk, Donna stated, yes she would. A motion was made by Commissioner Jackie Massey-Greene for Donna Banks to be appointed Temporary Assistant, seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson, motion passed.

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that additional duties will be added to the Clerk position, therefore, additional hours are required.

Budget Workshop/Discussion with Commissioners

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai opened up the budget workshop to be discussed with the Commissioners. The Director of Finance and Administration Errol Bartley went line by line to discuss each line item of the 2019/20 Proposed Budget which the FY starts on July 1st and ends July 2020 and stated that the proposed budget is \$1,865,655.00 compared to last year \$1,718,155.00. He also stated that the grand list should be 2019 not 2018 will make the necessary corrections and present at next meeting. After a line by line review with the Commissioners, there were no major questions. Discussion ended at 6:35pm

Public Hearing on FY 2019-2020 Budget (Open Discussion)

At 6:36pm, Commissioner Ariel Marzouca opened up the Public Hearing on the FY 2019-2020 Budget to the audience for their input questions.

Public Attendees: Anne Wall, Essie Tate, Nelson K. Carter, Sr., Edith Fein, Barbara Bagley, and Lt. Vincent Jaunai.

Open Discussions consist of the following:

Line Item: 5500 – Equipment (Edith Fein)

It was asked if these line items are covered by Grants. Director of Finance Errol Bartley stated that these items are not purchased with grant money.

Line Item 5060 - Attorney Fees (Edith Fein)

It was asked why are the Attorney Fees so high? Director of Finance stated that every time information requests comes in from the media or private citizens seeking information for any type or FOIC information, our Attorney is consulted and that cost money.

Line Item 5070 – Fire Dept. Group Exp (Barbara Bagley)

It was asked what is this line item for? Director of Finance Errol Bartley stated that it is used to take care of our volunteers for Bereavements, Thanksgiving and/or supplies for special events.

Line Item 5710 – Repairs and Maintenance (Barbara Bagley)

It was asked if the Town of Bloomfield maintains the fire vehicles. Director of Finance Errol Bartley stated that the maintenance is done by First Due and its mainly preventative maintenance at this time.

Line Item 5730 – Grounds (Barbara Bagley)

It was asked who maintains the Fire Houses Lawns? Finance Director Errol Bartley stated that the lawns are maintained by Green Machine but mowed by members of the Fire Department.

Line Item 5970 – Service Awards (Barbara Bagley)

It was asked how many volunteers are eligible for the Service Award? Chief Willie Jones stated that he wasn't sure, maybe 10-15 but he didn't have that information available at this meeting, but will have it for the next scheduled budget workshop meeting. There is a five (5) year waiting period for this to kick in.

Line Item 7065 – Volunteer Fire Fighters – Points (Barbara Bagley)

How do volunteers get points? Chief Willie Jones stated that points are given as soon as you come in to be active in responding to calls, you can get 100 points per year.

Line Item 5960 – Contractual Services (Edith Fein)

Lot of money is spent on Contractual Services maybe putting money in a Capital Fund for new engines will be best. Deputy Fire Chief Fred Nelson, Jr. stated that older engines are better than the new ones because the newer engines are computerized and when the computer goes down the whole truck shuts down and new trucks cost more to maintain. It was also stated that it will be helpful if this item was itemized. Director of Finance Errol Bartley stated that he will bring an itemized list to the next budget meeting.

Line Item 7035 (Treasurer) (Edith Fein)

Wanted to know what \$600.00 is for. Finance Director Errol Bartley stated that this is the stipend for the elected position of the Treasurer.

Line Item 5320 (Recruitment/Retention) (Anne Wall)

Wanted to know if The Education Fun Day is listed under this line item. Lt. Vincent Jaunai, Community Outreach Officer stated that it is, along with other community outreach activities that are done throughout the year and with these activities they are always looking for new recruits and volunteers.

Line Item 4010 (Rental Income) (Edith Fein)

Inquired about the Rental Income at 779 Blue Hills Avenue and 13 West Dudley Town Road. Director of Finance Errol Bartley stated that any firefighter can live there for \$250.00 a month. Ann Wall inquired about the house across the street and Director of Finance Errol Bartley stated that the house is handled by volunteers of a non-profit organization, not by Blue Hills Fire and one Commissioner (Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai) is a part of it.

Line Item 6040 (Turn Out Gear) (Edith Fein)

Wanted to know if new Turn Out Gear will be purchased this year. Finance Director, Errol Bartley stated that new gear was purchased last year and if we have volunteers that need it we may purchase some. Edith thanked the Commissioners for holding the Budget Workshop and stated as a tax payer it was very helpful to her.

Budget Workshop (Open Discussion)

There were no further Questions/Comments ended at 7:10pm

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene and seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Donna Banks
Acting Clerk