

Blue Hills Fire District
Board of Commissioner Meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2020
Location: Blue Hills Fire Department
Time: 7pm

Call to Order

The meeting of the Blue Hills Fire District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai at 7:00pm.

Observance of a Moment of Silence

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked that we observe a moment of Silence.

Commissioner Mark Manson stated that before we go further, he would like to make a motion that Commissioner Massey-Greene take over as Chair. The motion was made by Commissioner Mark Manson and seconded by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked (all in favor) Commissioner Mark Manson stated (I). Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that – that’s not how it works, Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated, that’s how it’s going to be. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that, you have to be nominated, then Commissioner Mark Manson stated the he nominates Commissioner Massey-Greene as Chair. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca- Jaunai asked if there were any other nominations. Commissioner Mark Manson stated “No”. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai nominated herself and Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene seconded the nomination for herself and Commissioner Mark Manson stated that he seconded the motion for Massey-Greene. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene took over as Chair of the meeting and moved on to discussion item 3 on the agenda, which is; discussion and anticipated action with regard to the approval of minutes from Commissioner’s meeting held on December 4, 2019.

Roll Call

Fire Chief Willie Jones, Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, Commissioner Mark Manson and Fire Marshal, Bill Lewis.

Absent

Director of Finance and Administration, Errol Bartley

Audience Present

Joan Gamble, Vincent Jaunai, Valda Thompson, Edith Fein, Barbara Taylor, Nelson K. Carter, Sr., Ed Garcia, Kesone Tefler, Fire Fighter Elvis Best, Fire Fighter Justin Cusson, Volunteer Fire Fighter Dominique Rogers, Volunteer Fire Fighter Milton Salmon and Steve Goode, Hartford Courant.

Discussion and Anticipated with regard to the approval of minutes from Commissioner’s meeting held on December 4, 2019.

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked if there's going to be a motion. A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Manson and seconded by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey Greene. Motion carried by Commissioner Mark Manson and Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene by voice vote with no further discussion.

Chief Report

Fire Chief Willie Jones stated that this year they responded to 524 calls and that's a 10% decrease from the previous year. Chief Jones also stated that there was no significant Fire Fighter injuries or civilian injuries and no deaths. Chief Jones stated that was the end of his report. Chair Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Mark Manson stated that there were no questions, but there was a question from the audience.

Ed Garcia stated that he lives in town and that he read an article that got the hairs on the back of his neck up and the question for the Chief is; Does this Fire District meet the Statutory Connecticut requirements for training.

Fire Chief Jones responded by saying "Yes"

Ed Garcia also asked when was the last time?

Fire Chief Jones stated that we currently send people to the Academy all the time for different certifications, different classes and it's an ongoing thing and we have to do a yearly Hazmat, Blood Borne Pathogen and CPR.

Ed Garcia also stated that the person that wrote the article is insinuating that there's issues with training and if he, his neighbor or someone in towns call 911 and the firehouse responds they are putting their confidence in them that our lives and our cherish ones in their hands and we trust and believe that once those doors open and whomever is coming is qualified.

Fire Chief Jones stated that our people are qualified and in order for them to enter a burning building, you have to be State Certified, Fire Fighter I.

Ed Garcia stated that he just wanted to address this article because it's reckless when someone write something like this and its in the paper knowing that the service that you folks provide. He also stated that insurance companies can raise all our insurance rates if Fire Fighters are not qualified. He also stated that this article that was written by this person spits in the face of those that volunteers and gives their time to protect our community.

Fire Chief Jones stated that we have the best equipment around and everything is up to date and we are constantly doing training as we train every Monday night.

Commissioner Massey-Greene asked are all the Firemen's up to date with qualifications, do you know the last time they were qualified, when were tested and did they go through everything; you have that on record.

Fire Chief Jones stated, yes in order to go into a burning building, the newer people are support people, they don't enter into a burning building until they get their qualifications and there are records as to who can do what, whether it's pump operation or driver and records are kept. There were no further questions, comments or discussions.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Bill Lewis stated that a new Five Below store is coming to Copaco Plaza, it's going to be where Webster Bank as Webster Banks is actually moving over in between Firestone and Goodwill. Fire Marshal also stated that there was a problem at 1051 Blue Hills Avenue with water leaking into the electrical, himself and the building inspector have straightened it out with the landlord until it rains again. Fire Marshal Bill Lewis also stated that they inspected 465 Cottage Grove Road, inspected Seabury and 271 Cottage Grove Road; those were all approved and we also have a new Dunkin Donuts at 485 Cottage Grove road and it's strictly a drive-thru – you cannot go inside the building. Fire Marshal Lewis stated that as of 2:30 today, the DPW Project was approved for their sprinkler and fire alarm system – there were major problems, that has all been straighten out. The Fire Marshal's office completed 18 inspections during the past month and completed 11 Plan Reviews and 2 Fire Investigations. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions regarding the Fire Marshal's report. There were no questions, comments or further discussion.

Director of Finance and Administration Report

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that Director of Finance Errol Bartley could not be here tonight so she will give the Financial Summary Report on his behalf. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated on Errol Bartley behalf the Financial Summary Report as of December 31, 2019 is \$1,097,805. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions on the Finance Director's report. There were no questions, comments or further discussions.

Training Report

Fire Chief Jones stated that we should be getting some new vehicles to cutup and possibly burn up at station 4 fire house in the near future and also we will be going on a task force drill up in East Granby in a couple of months at the quarry. Chief Jones also stated that there are various task force fire departments that are involved in the Task Force Response. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions on the Chief's report. There were no questions, comments or further discussions.

House Report

None

Community Outreach Report

LT Vincent Jaunai, Community Outreach Officer, stated that they are starting early working on our Educational Fun Day Event, it's always the weekend after Celebrate Bloomfield. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions. There were no questions or further discussions.

Department Concerns/Good and Welfare

Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any Department Concerns/Good and Welfare.

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she wishes everyone a happy and healthy new year and now that we have the first week of January 2020 under our belt she hopes that we all can come together with the Chief and get some things going, have some goals, get some things going here at the Fire District like the following.

Recruit New Volunteers

We can work with the Chief to help recruit new volunteers.

Incentives:

What is it that we can do for incentives so volunteers can come in.

New Apparatus:

Meet with the Chief to talk about new Apparatus and what is it that he needs, the time frame that he needs it. How can we get the resources, can get a grant, do fundraising, increase the mil rate; what is it that needs to be done to help the Fire District moving forward.

Fire Symposium:

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that every year all the Firefighters all over the united States get together and have a big training session in Clearwater Florida and it's important that (Chief) start attending that again as we do have money in the budget as the Symposium runs from November 12th-15th and it's up to the Chief who he wants to send. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that in addition, the Commissioners are also allowed to take those classes because it helps us how to manage Volunteer _____ department, which is volunteer and paid department, so it will be great if we start doing things to help move the district forward.

Fire Chief Dinner:

There's a Fire Chief's Dinner every year for the Fire Chief's in Connecticut and that's a good networking event. This event happens in December and it's always at the Aqua Turf in Southington. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked that Clerk Banks research this to get more information and report back. Fire Marshal Bill Lewis stated that they no longer have this event, as they now just have Chief's meetings every month except in June, they did away with the lunch. The meetings locations change every month and The Fire Chief's Association has a website that have all the meeting dates and locations, so Clerk Banks will do the research and report back to Commissioner Ariel Marzouca Jaunai by the next meeting.

Posting in the Paper:

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she also wants to address an article in the Messenger newspaper on the opinion page where Joan Gamble has her opinion. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she is selecting just a portion of the article where it's talking about the Commissioner's Bylaws, where in the posting (Joan Gamble) stated that one Commissioner cancelled all the Bylaws meetings. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that she just wants to know where (Joan) got that information from as when (Joan) came to one of the meetings late and the meeting was over. Joan Gamble stated that her information source is entirely credible. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that information is not true and you (Joan) cannot just keep going around and posting information that's not true; whereas the Commissioners came together and we all decided that we were going to have the bylaws brainstorming meetings the last day of every month and after that was decided, everyone set their schedules to meet then and leading up to some of the other scheduled meetings, one Commissioner stated that they have an event and could not attend. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that we are not voting on any issues during this meeting as we're just brainstorming, and residents can send in their information as 2 other Commissioners will be in attendance. Joan Gamble asked how many meetings bylaws meeting were held? Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she will give (Joan) the timeline of the meetings and Joan Gamble stated that she doubted that. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that the first meeting was held on June 26th and it was very successful. The second meeting was scheduled for July 31st but one Commissioner notified me and stated that they were unable to come as they have another event to go to, so now one Commissioner is unable to attend; we have no meeting, because we need to have 2 Commissioners for a quorum. In August, no meeting was scheduled. The Second meeting was held on September 25th and that meeting was successful as well; and Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that that's the meeting where (Joan) arrived late and the bylaws brainstorming meeting was over. In October the meeting was cancelled by me (Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai) because of unforeseen circumstances. In November the meeting was cancelled by Commissioner Mark Manson and me (Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai) because it was after Thanksgiving, so we both cancelled the meeting. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that's the timeline of the meeting and it's not true that one Commissioner cancelled the meetings, also Joan Gamble was at the last meeting and she could have asked; did this happen instead of posting this in the paper and Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated to Joan Gamble that is needs to stop. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that one Commissioner did not cancel all the meetings and Committee Member Nelson Carter Sr., attested to that. Discussion ended.

Citizens Statements/Concerns

Edith Fein stated that she's very concern about the bylaws, are you calling it Rules and Procedures or bylaws and that they were supposed to be done by the end of December and certainly by December and the meeting could have been reschedule or else the work doesn't get done, we have had bylaws in 3 years . Commissioner Arie Marzouca-Jaunai stated that there will be bylaws but when we set dates, everyone agreed upon them, but things come up. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that there will be a Bylaws meeting on

Wednesday, January 29th at 6:30pm and asked is this date good for everyone. It was stated that there needs to be a motion. Motion made by Jacqueline Massey-Greene that a bylaws meeting will be held on January 29th at 6:30pm, seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson by voice vote.

Edith Fein ask again about how long will it take for the bylaws

Payments of Invoices and Vouchers

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai entertained a motion to make payment of Invoices and Vouchers. Motion made by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson. Motion approved by unanimous voice votes with no further discussion.

Anticipated Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment of a District employee.

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai entertained a motion to go into executive session. Motion made by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson. Motion approved by unanimous voice to move into executive session at 7:20pm.

Anticipated Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment of a District employee ended.

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai entertained a motion to move out of executive session and back to the regular meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson. Motion approved by unanimous voice to move out of executive session and back to the regular meeting at 7:45pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson. Motion approved by unanimous voice votes. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Banks
District Clerk/Treasurer

2/5/20

Minutes approved on February 5th, 2020 by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene and Commissioner Mark Manson. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai recused herself from said motion.