

Blue Hills Fire District
Board of Commissioner Meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 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 Jacqueline Massey-Greene at 7:00pm.

Observance of a Moment of Silence

Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked that we Observe a Moment of Silence.

Roll Call

Director of Finance and Administration, Errol Bartley, Fire Chief Willie Jones, Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, Commissioner Mark Manson and Fire Marshal, Bill Lewis.

Audience Present

Vincent Jaunai, Barbara Taylor, Ed Garcia, Kesone Tefler, Fire Fighter Elvis Best, Fire Fighter Justin Cusson, Pethona Marcelus, Sheray McDowell, Steve Goode, Hartford Courant and Len Besthoff, NBC Connecticut.

Discussion and Anticipated Action with regard to the approval of minutes from Commissioner's meeting held on January 8, 2020.

Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she recused herself from the said motion. Jacqueline Massey-Greene made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2020; motion seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson by his voice vote.

Chief Report

Fire Chief Willie Jones stated that there have been 44 calls since the last meeting and that's a decrease of 25% in call volume since this time period last year. In the category of false alarms, we had 10, hazard conditions, which are CO detectors, 15 fluid spills from vehicles accidents and 13 service calls which could be water calls or other type of distress calls where people call the fire department. Chief Jones also stated that we did have one significant accident; a car ran into a tree at 1260 Blue Hills Avenue, which was a serious accident. Chief Jones also stated that he had a meeting with the Police Department about their new radio system. Motorola is the provider for the BPD radio system, and they suggested an upgrade with more BTU's is needed. Our radio equipment along with Bloomfield Center's is on the Motorola system and all three departments will meet to figure out the cost for a new air conditioner to be installed to keep the system cool and hopefully that will be the last phase of the radio infrastructure. Furthermore, Chief Jones also stated that Target Solution Online Training program is up and running and many of the Firefighters have completed their weekly or Monthly assignments.

Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions for the Chief. There were no further comments or questions regarding the Chief's Report.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Bill Lewis stated that there was a 6" Fire Main Break at Metacomet School and he checked on that issue. The Back-East Brewery Company is renovating, they are adding a new addition on the side. Fire Marshall Bill also stated that 1095 Blue Hills Avenue had a fire alarm problem, where he checked on that, and also investigated a fire at 522B Cottage Grove Road where a welder was using a torch and a rubber hoses and a tank caught fire and the firefighters pulled it outside so that it could burn itself off. Fire Marshal Bill Lewis also stated that he have been tied up DPW on their additions and renovations, he inspected 52 Granby Street with building officials and at SABA Live and have done 2 inspections there and it looks like they are really doing a good job with the renovations. The fire Marshal's office completed 11 inspections during the past month and is in the process of completion of 8 Plans Reviews and 1 Fire Investigation. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions for the Fire Marshal There were no further comments or questions for the Fire Marshal's Report.

Director of Finance and Administration Report

Director of Finance Errol Bartley distributed the Financial Summary Report and a copy of the Actual Budget as of January 31, 2020 to all the Commissioners and to all the citizens that was in attendance. He stated that the Financials as of January 31, 2020 are up to date and we have \$966,000 in the Bank, \$875,118 in Cash and \$42,808 in Investment and Government Agency Bonds. Finance Director Errol Bartley also stated that we budgeted \$1,865,655.00, we have received so far \$1,745,890.16 and our expenses are \$1,055,468.00, and we are 7 months into our budget, which is around about 58%. Finance Director Bartley also stated that we have paid all of the large bills, which is the SBCA at \$69,000 and \$133,000 to Bank of America for the New Firehouse, all Insurances as well as quarterly payments, and payments and invoices are up to date and we are in good standing. Finance Director Errol Bartley also stated that we spent largely on Motor Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance, which is line item number 5600, we budgeted \$85,000, and today we roughly have \$14,000.00. Director of Finance Errol Bartley also stated that, the Blue Hills Fire District had a Webster Bank Account prior to the present Commissioners that was in dormancy where we were unable to do any transactions on the account because there were no current signers on the account. However, the account balance was \$2,137.00 and thanks to Clerk Donna Banks, who was able to send a letter to Webster Bank where they honored our request and had the account closed and the check was deposited into Well Fargo Bank. Commissioner Massey-Greene wanted to know when the account was closed; Finance Director Errol Bartley stated that the account was closed the last week of January. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any further questions for the Finance Director. There were no further comments or questions for the Finance Director.

Training Report

Fire Chief Jones stated that a new Training Committee has been established consisting of 4-5 members. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions on the Training Report. There were no further questions, comments or further discussions.

House Report

Fire Chief Jones stated that 2 firefighters have moved into Station 3 Firehouse on the South End of Blue Hills Avenue. During the Fire Chief House Report, Commissioner Massey-Greene asked Chief Jones; Who actually is supposed to be doing the Training Report, is it him? Fire Chief Jones replied that it should be the Training Officer, but he's not here and that he (Chief Jones) knows what going on so he can report on it as well. There were no further questions, comments or further discussions.

Community Outreach Report

LT. Vincent Jaunai, Community Outreach Officer, stated that we had a young man who was part of our Internship program, Sean Dixon and he wanted to proudly say that Sean Dixon set the record in the Long Jump Track and Field Championship Meet (the article was in the Bloomfield Messenger) and is now considered the BEST in the State. Community Outreach Officer LT. Jaunai also gave an update on some of the other interns that participated in the program; Jillian Mars is attending University of DC, Ryan Greene is at UCONN, one of our interns is also down at Eastern and LT. Jaunai stated that all the interns are doing extremely well and that he is proud to say so. L.T Jaunai also mentioned that Celebrate Bloomfield meeting is next week and that the Community Outreach Team is working alongside them as they will be hosting their event the first week of June. Commissioner Massey-Greene asked if there were any questions. There were no questions, comments or further discussions.

Department Concerns/Good and Welfare

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

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she wanted to address her concerns directly to Steve Goode from the Hartford Courant and to Len Besthoff from NBC Connecticut. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that last month there was a vote in reference to who should be the Chair and that both of you have been here for at least 3 years, Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that you (Steve Goode and Len Besthoff) you people have investigated, dug in, there's nothing, you people have researched, there's nothing, you people have reported things that happen in the past, fine, that's ok, freedom of speech. When you people come in, you need to do your jobs and you have to be fair, you just cannot come after me, and you just cannot want to take my family and myself down. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that last month (Mr. Besthoff, you wasn't here), but you were Mr. Goode, and there was a motion made from Commissioner Manson for Commissioner Massey-Greene to be the Chair and you knew that it was not on the agenda. (Mr. Goode stated he didn't) Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that he (Steve Goode) did know that it was not on the agenda. Commissioner Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that if it was her who had made the illegal motion and vote, they would have filed a case against her with the FOI and Attorney Pat McHale (District Attorney) would have been called and her name, Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai would be all over the paper and on Facebook and it's very unfair.

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that if you are here to do a job, you must be fair, not because Commissioner Manson is your friend (Steve Goode), there should be no friends here, we are the Board of Fire Commission and everyone should be treated the same, you (Len Besthoff, NBC and Steve Good, Hartford Courant) cannot pick and choose who should be penalized for their mistakes. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that Len Besthoff and Steve Goode wants to take her down for absolutely no reason. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, when she took over as Chair from Tanya Farmer, it wasn't on the agenda, Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that it was on the agenda and Commissioner Massey-Greene needs to go back and look at the agenda for herself. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that if an item is not on the agenda, a motion must be made to add it to the agenda.

Citizens Statements/Concerns

Barbara Taylor mentioned to Commissioner Mark Manson that when he was campaigning to become Commissioner, he stated that he was here for the firefighters and wanted to replace the board outside, it's been almost 2 years and the board haven't been replace, so what have he done for the firefighters and the fire department? Commissioner Mark Manson stated, well it not necessary just himself and one of the biggest thing that he have done was that he bought a person in that could do Grants and stated that we can't do anything without money, so anything that he does or anything that he purposed cost money. Commissioner Mark Manson stated that he can't do it by himself, and stated that he brought this person in from Waterbury that could do grants and the guy stated that he actually wasn't going to charge us and again Commissioner Mark Manson stated that he can't do anything by himself, he also stated, one other thing is that he's always here for the volunteers and he stated in the beginning he asked them what were some of their concerns, what are their needs and no one said anything to him so he couldn't just go and do things when no one is telling him what their issues are. Barbara Taylor also asked Commissioner Mark Manson if he had done any research to replace the Billboard? Commissioner Mark Manson stated, no, but there was some research done, but right now that cost money and when LT. Jaunai was looking at it, it was like \$23,000. Commissioner Mark Manson stated that something came up about the boards from the town that was bought to his attention, but he did not have the chance to look into that yet, as far as the board is concern, it is a lot of money and he thought it was going to be easy. LT. Vincent Jaunai stated that the Boards that the town had were sent back to the company to be refurbished and resold. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that, it was not that Commissioner Mark Manson did not look into it- he did research it.

Kesone Tefler stated that she had a question for Commissioner Mark Manson and wanted to piggyback on something that he had said. Kesone stated: Commissioner Mark Manson you stated that you couldn't do it by yourself, who are you looking for to help you, is it the team not agreeing with you. Commissioner Mark Manson stated that he did not say that he could not do

it by himself. Kesone Tefler again repeated what Commissioner Mark Manson had said (that he cannot do it by himself) and the question is; is it that the team is not working together with you to get it done or is it just that the finances are not there. Commissioner Manson stated that when he came in, he's constantly asking people what their concerns are, what are their issues and no one is coming up with anything. Kesone Tefler stated that she is not talking about the volunteers, she's talking about the comment that (Commissioner Manson) you said that you can't do it by yourself. Commissioner Mark Manson again stated that he did not say that he couldn't do it by himself. Kenson Tefler waited for an answer and asked Commissioner Mark Manson is he going to ignore her? Commissioner Mark Manson stated yes, yes and he asked Commissioner Massey-Greene to move on to the next item on the agenda. Kenson Tefler, stated ok.

Ed Garcia wanted to know from Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene what was the status on the Bylaws and stated that the other side of town don't have bylaws either and Blue Hills Fire Commissioners will be the first. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that the bylaws are in motion and she had a meeting scheduled which was supposed to be the week before last and stated that she'll take the blame that she didn't send the Agenda to Clerk Banks. Commissioner Massey-Greene also stated that she e-mailed the Clerk and cc'd Steve Goode from the Hartford Courant and the Attorney to have it posted on the board and when she got to the meeting, there was no Agenda, so the meeting had to be cancelled. Commissioner Massey-Greene also stated that she spoke to the Attorney and he stated that the Clerk knows how to write the Agenda and it was her job, and that's what we pay her to do. Commissioner Massey-Greene also stated that she is setting up a date, working with the Attorney, trying to get one for next week the 12th because he is going away the 13th; Commissioner Massey-Greene stated that she is going to call the Attorney tomorrow/Thursday to ask him if he's available. Ed Garcia also asked Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene if she's going to make the date available as he's offering to help with the Bylaws and wanted to know who's going to take care of the agenda and send it out. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked Ed Garcia for his e-mail.

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she would like to clear something up and stated that Clerk Banks never received an Agenda, as she was on the e-mail that Commissioner Massey-Greene sent out and there was no agenda. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that what she received was an e-mail that said; Post the meeting notice on the outside boards and that's what Clerk Banks did. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that the Clerk cannot make up the Agenda, the Chair of the meeting is responsible for making their own Agenda, then email it to the Clerk to post and make copies for the meeting as the Clerk does not know what the Chair wants to talk about. Commissioner Ariel Marouca-Jaunai stated that she just wanted to be clear about who's responsible for preparing the Agenda.

Ed Garcia asked Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene what role will the Attorney play regarding the bylaws, because Attorneys like to run up bills? Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that he has been the Attorney for the district for all these years, so it's the same bill and now that she's the Chair she's going to use him to make sure it's written properly and we're not going to sit at the table and make up stuff.

Finance Director Errol Bartley stated that we were brainstorming and we have had 3 or 4 meetings and during that time we had reached a certain place and had different tasks to do for homework for the next upcoming meetings and to get the Attorney to come in during this process, it's going to cost per hour and we didn't budget for that kind of situation to have the Attorney come in for every meeting. Finance Director Erol Bartley also stated that we can continue to meet and Brainstorm or whatever and when we reach a certain point where we all think the Attorney can review it, we can send it to him, but right now we are just brainstorming. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that she will set a date. Ed Garcia stated that he definitely wants to be notified.

Payments of Invoices and Vouchers

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

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson. Motion to adjourn approved by unanimous voice votes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Banks
District Clerk/Treasurer

Note: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, on Wednesday, March 4th, 2020 and seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson. Motion approved by unanimous voice votes with no questions or discussions.