

# Approved

**Blue Hills Fire District  
Board of Commissioner Meeting  
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
Location: Blue Hills Fire Department  
Time: 7pm**

## **Call to Order**

Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai to Chair the meeting because she was sick. The meeting of the Blue Hills Fire District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai at 7:01pm.

## **Observance of a Moment of Silence**

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai 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, Fire Fighter Elvis Best, Fire Fighter Justin Cusson, Fire Fighter Milton Salmon, Fire Fighter Jevonie Welcome, Joan Gamble, Marva Greenfield, Martin Manson, Jr., Kenneth McClary, Sheray McDowell and Len Besthoff, NBC Connecticut.

## **Discussion and Anticipated Action with regard to the approval of minutes from Commissioner's Meeting held on February 5, 2020.**

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene made a motion to approve the minutes from February 5, 2020 meeting; motion seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson by his voice vote. Motion approved by unanimous voice votes with no further questions or discussion.

## **Chief Report**

Fire Chief Willie Jones stated that since the last meeting, there have been 30 calls for the month and out of the 30, one third of them have been calls to go to Seabury and Trader Joes and Phoenix Crossing; and mainly those calls were false alarms. Fire Chief Willie Jones also stated that we had one dual response call at Bloomfield Center, other than that it's been relative quite as far as fires are concern and believes lots of that is weather related, which is actually a good thing. Fire Chief Willie Jones also stated that currently he is looking into the cost effectiveness of converting the radios we purchased from WEAKS Radio as currently we have about 15 radios that we own and we are looking into possible leasing them instead due to the repair cost and the age of the radios as they are getting old. Fire Chief Willie Jones also stated that if anyone wants to see the graphs, please feel free to see him. Commissioner Ariel Marzuca-Jaunai 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 we have a new Bistro/Mercantile at 1124 Blue Hills Avenue and they specialize in African Art and it's very nice and advises everyone to stop in and see it. Fire Marshal Bill Lewis also stated that an Explosive Magazine Inspection was done at Kaman and that was approved and Goosetown at 7A Old Windsor Road received their Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, Back East Brewery is expanding, they're going from about 100 people to 177 people, a Certificate of Occupancy inspection for Seabury was approved, they are apartments from single to dual apartments, also responded to Seabury for an oven fire. Fire Marshal Bill Lewis stated the Fire Marshal's office completed 10 inspections during the past month, completed 10 inspections, 13 Plan Reviews and 1 Fire Investigation. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai 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 February 29, 2020 to all the Commissioners and to all the citizens that was in attendance and stated that to date and we have \$764,198 in cash in our operating account, \$90,882 in investments which actually \$48,074 is Money Market Cash and \$42,808 in Government Bonds, so to date the total is \$855,080, as we also have based on our budget as we budgeted 1,865.655 for revenue and to date we have collected \$1,761,403 which most of that is due to collections. We budgeted \$1,761,403 for collections and we collected \$1,751,519.27 leaving a balance of \$4,694.27 and that's normally the trend, we always collect 100% if collections are good for those past due prior year taxes, then we normally get more that what was budgeted. Director of Finance Errol Bartley also stated that the budget is in good standing, there are no surprised, all items are nsync base on the 9 months and stated if anyone have any questions regarding the budget line items, please let ask him. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai 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 training is going well, 90 percent of the department is involved with the online training with Target Solutions, which is going very well, and also a walk through drill have been scheduled with Kaman Aircraft on Friday afternoon, March 13<sup>th</sup> 4pm and hopefully a disaster drill will be scheduled sometime this summer with Kaman so they can be in Compliance with the FAA requirements. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked if there were any questions on the Training Report. There were no further questions, comments or further discussions.

### **House Report**

None

### **Community Outreach Report**

None

### **Department Concerns/Good and Welfare**

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked if there were any Department Concerns/Good and Welfare.

**Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai** stated that the Annual District Meeting is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene said; no, it isn't. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that this date is in the Resolution and that the Resolution was passed for the date to be April 1<sup>st</sup> and that all the necessary paperwork have been completed as well as posting being listed in the Hartford Courant as well, so the meeting is April 1st and at the Commissioner Meeting on March 13, 2019 a fixed date for the Annual Meeting was also scheduled because at the Annual meeting we were to vote for a Commissioner, a Treasurer and a Clerk and at that meeting over 100 citizens passed the Resolution, so there is a Resolution. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked Clerk Banks to pull a copy of the Resolution that the district passed on March 13, 2019 fixing the dates and a copy of what was posted in the paper the Election that the District passed. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked Commissioner Mark Manson did he know about the meeting dates, he stated yes, but didn't know when the date was as he know something was passed but wasn't sure what it was. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene asked Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai again when the Annual Meeting was, Commissioner Jaunai stated April 1<sup>st</sup> is The Annual District Meeting and it's to vote in a Commissioner, a Clerk and a Treasurer. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that the applications for Commissioners are closed and asked Clerk Banks if there were any candidates. Clerk Banks stated that there are 2 candidates and they are Barbara Taylor and Sheray McDowell and both candidates are in compliance with the dates and times. Commissioner Mark Manson asked Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai for the names again and Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that she didn't put in her application and Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated to her that she can't as the application deadline is closed. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene said, excuse me, and Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated again that the application deadline for Commissioners is closed and applications have to be in 30 days before the meeting. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that no one told her, and she will be putting her application in. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated to Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene that it's not going to work, the application deadline has passed. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked Clerk Banks to gather all the proper paperwork that was posted in the Hartford Courant paper, the Commissioner application process and all notices. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that she's going to override this. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene cannot override a resolution. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene insisted that she's going to override the application deadline date and run. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai handed Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene copies of the posting but she did not read them. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also stated that we need to have a budget workshop and the Resolution was also passed that we should have an Annual Budget on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday of May, however we need to have a budget workshop first so the community can come in and ask questions, so Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai proposed the date for the budget workshop to be April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated no, we're not taking any dates right now. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that we have to in order to be in Compliance. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene again stated that no dates will be taken. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated we have to set dates in order to be in Compliance to have the budget workshop. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that she's not doing it. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she is proposing those dates and the Legal Annual Notice has to be in the paper by May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Citizens Statements/Concerns**

Joan Gamble made a comment about overriding the application for people who want to run for Commissioner and stated that Ariel-Marzouca-Jaunai said that it's not going to happen and that she overrode 2 Commissioner when Tanya Farmer was here. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated to Joan Gamble that Commissioner Jaunai knew when the dates were and that she just wanted to sneak it pass her so the other candidates can filed and that (she) Commissioner Greene will file her paper work and that it will be accepted. Joan Gamble also suggested that there are 2 Commissioners against 1 and if there is a problem with just 3 Commissioners in the future, look into 5 so there is not this game playing that looks suspicious. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai is making up dates. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that it's Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene job as Chair to know what's going on. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that Commissioner Jaunai should have told her. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that this resolution was passed a year ago, and Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that, well it's expired. Kenneth McClary asked that we read the minutes from when the Resolution was passed, who made the motion and who voted. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked Clerk Banks to get the minutes from the March 13, 2019 Special Meeting of the Blue Hills Fire Commissioners. Clerk Banks stated that these are the minutes that was taken from the last Clerk dated, Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6pm and states the following: Vice Chair Massey Green made a motion to pass the resolution of fixing the dates of The Annual District Meeting to be held on the Third Wednesday of May. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Manson. The motion carried unanimously. After the reading of the motion, Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that the motion was for that meeting, not now. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai also asked Clerk Banks to read the Resolution, which states; the resolution calls for the first Wednesday in April to have the first Annual District Meeting, where a Commissioners will be elected for a 3 year term, a Clerk and Treasurer for a 1 year term and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in May to have the Annual District Budget Meeting, Council Kenneth McClary made a motion to accept the Resolution, motion was seconded by Deon Nowell, voice votes was taken and the Resolution was adopted. Clerk Banks also stated that all this information is on our website and you can find it at

[www.bluehillsfire.org](http://www.bluehillsfire.org). Kenneth McClary asked could we get a legal opinion; can someone be called. Joan stated that a member of the public and press is here, can we get clarification and Kenneth McClary asked can this be overridden. Clerk Banks stated that if the Commissioners voted on it, it's part of the Resolution. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked Clerk Banks to read the notice stating that the notice dated April 3, 2019, 7pm. Clerk Banks also stated that the Commissioners need to read up on the District Business as its stated in the minutes that the 2 of you Massey-Greene and Manson voted on the Resolution. Manson stated to Clerk Banks that ok, we got it.

**Len Besthoff** stated to Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai that she talked about him at last month's meeting and he introduced himself as the Chief Investigative Reporter for NBC Connecticut and (read the following statement) that he has been a news reported for almost 32 years and he's been reporting on issues at the Blue Hills Fire District since 2016 and that he attended the February 2020 Blue Hills Fire District Commission meeting and at that meeting Commissioner Marzouca-Jaunai made inaccurate comments about him and his reporting and that he dispute her assertions. Len Besthoff asked that a copy of this statement be entered into the records, (see copy attached below). Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked Len Besthoff, what was the dispute? Len Besthoff stated that he have already said what he had to say. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that she's not reading no stories and said that she said the truth and she knows that the truth hurts. Len Besthoff stated that he's sticking to his story. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that when you report, you have to make sure you are writing the truth, you have to be honest and you have to make sure you report across the board.

Joan Gamble stated that cut off times for people to apply for Commissioners, why didn't all 3 Commissioners get notified by e-mail. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai stated that this is something that has been going on for year, that everybody should know, and Commissioner Greene as well should know. Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that Ariel is upset because she's no longer the Chair and her friends are here, Donna, Errol and she's not having it and stated that Ariel don't run this District. Finance Director Errol Bartley asked Massey-Greene why his name is being called, Massey-Greene stated you know who you are with her and the friendship is going to stop. Finance Director Errol Bartley stated that the thing is if, if you want to be a Commissioner, you should read up on the rules and know what you should to and what the procedures are and nobody should instruct you as you're the Chair, you should know if you're doing to run the meeting what to do. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene stated that she should have been asked if she was running or not.

#### **Payments of Invoices and Vouchers**

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked for a motion to make payments of Invoices and Vouchers. Motion made by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene; motion seconded by

Commissioner Mark Manson. Motion approved by unanimous voice votes with no further questions or discussion.

**Executive Session with Fire Marshall Bill Lewis; the reason is employee concerns.**

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene made a motion to change the reason from Employee Concerns to Personnel Concerns. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mark Manson by voice vote. Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai recused herself from voting. There were further questions or discussion.

The Executive Session was attended by Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai, Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene, Commissioner Mark Manson and Fire Marshal, Bill Lewis at 7:40p.m. Executive Session ended at 7:58pm.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Ariel Marzouca-Jaunai asked for a Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Commissioner Mark Manson, seconded by Commissioner Jacqueline Massey-Greene. Motion to adjourn approved by unanimous voice votes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Banks  
District Clerk/Treasurer