Public Safety Commission  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
September 16, 2019  
MINUTES  
Community Room – Middletown Police Department  
---------Minutes---------

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Santangelo called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Commissioner Mary Bartolotta  
Commissioner Carl Chisem  
Commissioner Robert Santangelo

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Commissioner Deb Kieckowski  
Commissioner Phil Fessina

STAFF PRESENT:
Fire Chief Robert Kronenberger  
Deputy Chief Al Leary

STAFF ABSENT

PUBLIC PRESENT

None present

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Santangelo asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting held on May 20, 2019. Commissioner Chisem so moved, Commissioner Bartolotta seconded, and all voted in favor.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

• None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

> Letter from Wallingford Fire Chief for mutual aid given for a fire at Choate

6. MONTHLY REPORT

• Monthly report given by Chief Kronenberger:
  o Call comparison:
• Summer was busy but quiet busy — lot of calls but nothing major, not a lot of river or bridge activity
• Up 9% for the year call volume wise — up to 355 calls for the month
• Wesleyan extremely quiet over the summer — only 9 calls in August, Alarms did 89 man hours for the month of August and the Fire Marshals office put in 9 man hours
  • Call volume expected to rise in September
• Alarms Division spent a lot of time at the middle school getting their alarm system ready
• There were three retirements over the summer: Lt. Unikiewicz, Lt. Davis, and Firefighter Guevarez
  • Promoted 2 new lieutenants: Marc Pongemie & Patrick Ehman
    • Swearing in is this Friday
• Just about at full staffing — three currently in the academy with a lot of fire service history
  • Hired Chris Walsh from city dispatch as well as his cousin Tyler Walsh. Chris’s father just retired from the fire department in New York City, Tyler’s father is a Battalion Chief in New Britain, their grandfather is a retired Battalion Chief from Hartford and then went to Willimantic as the Fire Chief. The third hire is Jake D’Amato whose father is a Battalion Chief in Bristol. All are doing well in the academy at this time and getting good reports from the instructors
  • Changed hiring practice about six years ago and have gotten quality firefighters who are doing very well
    • Chief Kronenberger extended the swearing in invitation to the commission for this Friday at 2:30 in Council Chambers
• Announcement for new recruitment is out as this is the end of the list — hope to test in the fall and goal is to have a recruitment in place by January 1st

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

• Took delivery of new engine last Monday — each shift has been out driving & pumping it, started equipment change over today and if all goes well should be in service by Wednesday
  • Great help given from Joe Samolis in getting this through grant money
  • Because of grant requirements it has to run in certain census tracks — will run cut of Main Street

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

  • None

9. **Monthly Summary of Action Taken by the Telecommunications Committee**

• Minutes of meeting held on Monday, September 9, 2019 included in meeting packet for review
10. **Other Matters Not on the Agenda:**  
   - None

11. **Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters**

12. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
   - Monthly report given by Director Kronenberger:  
     - Busy summer – did a lot from the 4th of July to the Main Street events and Film on Foss, called them out for a few major incidents as well including the Middlesex Pool & Tennis Club  
     - Radio system is very close – all sites are up & powered – Motorola will start acceptance testing process in mid October – need to be at 95% coverage and should be live around November  
     - Correspondence  
       - None

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

   Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

   Respectfully submitted,  
   Lori Ruffino  
   Recording Secretary

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**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 2019**