

MINUTES of the INC. VILLAGE of NORTHPORT
BOARD of FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Meeting held Tuesday, October 15, 2024
at Northport Fire Headquarters – 204 Main Street, Northport

Present:

Chairman P. Weber, Commissioners P. Latuso, J. Clark, T. Koch, W. Koran
Chief T. Smalling, Chief W. Scherer, Sr. Houseman J. McKenna

Absent:

Chief D. Cross

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman P. Weber.
Motion made/second/approved to accept the September 2024 meeting's minutes.

Chairman Weber:

- Asked all present to begin working on the 2025-2026 annual budget, and requests special attention be paid to not pierce a 2% increase.
- Announced a photo opportunity will occur sometime in the near future with the Mayor, Board of Trustees, Board of Fire Commissioners and the Fire Chiefs for the dedication of the new Engine 294. An email will be sent to announce the date and time for same.

Commissioner Latuso:

- Led a discussion on the continued negotiations with the Town of Huntington and the Town of Smithtown regarding tenancy on Callahan's Beach communications tower. There has been positive feedback from our radio contractor and all municipalities. We should begin thinking about budgeting for the project in the future.
- Announced a fledgling idea/discussion within the Town of Huntington regarding acquisition of space in new building projects for volunteer firefighters and EMS workers in the Town. Briefly discussed some of the proposals/requirements/qualifications for applicants. Appears to be a project far from completion but would like the Chiefs to know there has been discussion.

Commissioner Clark:

- Introduced relevant and quality questions into Commissioner Latuso's discussion regarding Volunteer housing.

Commissioner Koran:

- Made note that Engine 298 was out of service over a weekend this past month and asked for clarification/procedure for calling in the Village Mechanic when situations such as this arise. John McKenna stated he does not have the authority to call in the mechanic after hours or for overtime. He states he currently would have to call the

Village Administrator (Roland Buzard) and explain the situation. Roland would then determine if the mechanic could be/should be called in for overtime. John noted that the officers put the engine out of service because of a "low coolant" warning on the dash. In fact, it was determined that the coolant was not low and that the sensor had gone bad. The sensor was replaced on the Monday following that weekend and the engine was back in service. Chairman Weber made note that, "We've never had to call the mechanic in for overtime. We have additional trucks in service, and if needed, we call for mutual aid from a neighboring department".

- Commissioner Koran asked how often vehicle fluids are checked and by whom. He also asked who performs routine maintenance on the vehicles. John McKenna reports that vehicle checks are on the weekly schedule and are checked by Fire Department employees. If needed, the employee adds fluids where needed. He also noted that the Village Mechanic has all vehicles on a regular schedule for fluid and filter changes. The mechanic performs those duties at the Village's Central Garage.

Commissioner Koch:

- States he has been in communication with representatives from Commander reference (Ambulance #1) revised plans. He has a meeting scheduled this coming week to discuss those same plans.
- Will provide an update at next month's meeting (November) for the progress/arrival of Ambulance #2. It is currently still on schedule for December arrival.
- The Commissioner is still continuing research regarding the replacement of Heavy Rescue 2910.

Chief Smalling:

- Requests permission to fly an American Flag from the back of four Engines and one Truck. Discussion followed with questions such as;
 - a) how the flags would be mounted to the apparatus,
 - b) are there other departments in the Town of Huntington that do this,
 - c) might there be any questions/concerns re: "flag etiquette"Commissioner Latuso listed some of the departments in the Town where he has seen an American flag flying from the trucks.
Chairman Weber asked John McKenna to check with the other departments to see how the flags are mounted and assist Chief Smalling with placing the flags on the apparatus. – (AIF)
- Requests next year's budget include funding for 10 new sets of firefighter protective turnout gear to stay on our current 10-year replacement schedule. – (AIF).
Chairman Weber instructed the Chief to remember same when he submits his budget for approval.
- Asked for a status update on hose appliances that were requested for the new Engine 294. John McKenna, Commissioner Koch and Commissioner Koran all stated the requested items have been ordered and, if they are not yet in house, they are pending arrival.

- Asked if next year's budget should include funding for "spare" appliances and tools to keep in stock should there be any unexpected breakdown or malfunctions. Commissioner Koran indicated that there is a stock of supplies readily available in house consisting of items taken off the old Engine 294. We kept those items should they be needed at some point.
- The Chief expresses some concern that there appears to be some inconsistency with dispatch procedures regarding Signal 3s (additional manpower requested). He notes that some dispatchers tone out Signal 3s many times while others do so sparingly. He noted that one dispatcher had mutual aided an alarm without having activated a General Alarm Signal 3 for our own members. John McKenna said the procedures comply with County mandates and they are written and posted in the dispatch office. He will have the part-time employees review the procedures and sign-off when they have done so.
- Chief Smalling has relocated Engine 293 from Headquarters to Station 1 while Tower Ladder 297 is out for repair. Reference to TL297's repair led to a discussion on the truck's condition. John McKenna and Commissioner Koch gave an update on the repairs needed. The truck will remain out of service until the rear suspension can be repaired. It is not safe and not operational until the repairs are complete. John McKenna noted that all adjoining departments have been made aware that the truck is out of service.

John McKenna:

- States the NYS DMV inspections are complete for all apparatus. All have passed.
- Frank Lau will be here Wednesday, October 16th to execute any needed turnout gear repairs following this year's inspection. Mr. Lau indicated the repairs will be "way lower" than our estimated expense.
- NFPA vehicle weights will be conducted at Headquarters and Station 1 by Waterway on November 11th.
- October is Fire Prevention Month and an Open House for school aged children and their families is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th 12 Noon – 2:00 PM. The Department requests permission to conduct a live burn demonstration in the rear parking lot for the assembled audience. Motion made/second/approved – (AIF)
- The Village has had the garbage dumpster in the rear parking lot welded/repaired. Since the repairs have been completed, the rats that apparently lived in/around the dumpster are everywhere behind the building. Until the Village finds a solution to the rat problem, all garage doors at Fire Headquarters will remain closed at all times to prevent rats entering the building.

There being no further business, Chairman Weber thanked everyone for their participation and announced the next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 12th at 6:00 PM.

Motion made/second/approved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.