

Cromwell Fire District

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Cromwell, CT 06416
Telephone 860-635-4420

FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **Special Board of Commissioners' Meeting**

Via Conference Call

Thursday, April 9, 2020

3:30 PM

West Street Firehouse

1 West Street

Cromwell, CT

A Special Board of Commissioners' Meeting via conference call was held on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 3:30 PM, at 1 West Street, Cromwell, CT to consider and act upon Special Fire District business.

Acting President Roger Rukowicz did a roll call alphabetically by last name at 3:30 PM. Commissioners David Colligan, Charles Epstein, Jason Hanners, Allan Spotts and Mertie Terry were a part of the conference call. Commissioner Robert Donohue was unavailable to participate. Also attending were Executive Director Julius Neto, Fire Chief Michael Terenzio and Firefighter Union President Brett Hallden.

Per Executive Order No. 7B, Governor Lamont has ordered and directed that in-person open meeting requirements have been suspended. Therefore, the Commissioners' Meeting will be held via conference call. Members of the public may send questions or comments to jneto@cromwellfd.com on any agenda items. Commissioner Rukowicz noted that for the monthly Board of Commissioners' meeting for the month of April, the Board will also be using this conference call format. It is most likely the same process that will be followed for the May monthly meeting as well. He also noted that the Commissioners will see an increase in their emails. Commissioner Rukowicz has requested that Chief Terenzio include the Commissioners in his COVID-19 update/meetings. There was a lot of good information regarding procedures and protocols. He thanked the Chief for keeping the Commissioners in the loop. He added that if the Commissioners need anything, they should reach out to Commissioner Rukowicz, Chief Terenzio or the Executive Director. They will do their best to keep everyone updated. He also advised everyone that Commissioner Colligan has stepped up into the Assistant Fire Chief role temporarily. He will be acting Ass't Chief until that position has been filled. He thanked Commissioner Colligan for all his assistance and efforts. It is greatly appreciated by the Board.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 PM, by Acting President Rukowicz.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was noted that because this is a Special Board meeting, the Agenda does not need to be voted on for approval. It cannot be changed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Acting President noted that there is no public present. Members of the public may forward comments to the Executive Director as noted in Commissioner Rukowicz' opening statement regarding the Governor's Executive Order. At the time of the meeting, the Executive Director had not received any comments to be brought forward. It was noted that the Agenda had been published at Town Hall as well as the District's website.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Cheryl Doherty, New Part-Time FMO Administrative Assistant. The Acting President reported that Ms. Doherty began working a couple of weeks ago. Commissioner Rukowicz had made the Executive decision to bring her on board pending the ratification from the full Board. He asked if anyone had any questions. Commissioner Spotts had asked if this appointment had been approved by the Personnel Committee. It was noted that the Personnel Committee had approved this person to be hired for the FMO. It was not brought up at the full Board meeting in March because the meeting had been canceled due to the virus and social distancing restrictions. This Special meeting was the earliest possible time for the full Board to approve this hiring.

A motion was made by Commissioner Spotts, seconded by Commissioner Hinners and unanimously approved to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire Ms. Cheryl Doherty as the new part-time FMO Administrative Assistant.

- B. Approval of Purchase of New Equipment from the Trust Fund. Commissioner Rukowicz explained that the Chief had gone out and bought new turnout gear. There was a meeting between the Executive Director, Mike Alibrio and Commissioner Rukowicz to determine where the funds would come from. They came to an agreement that the funds would come from the Trust Fund. Commissioner Rukowicz approved the Trust Fund as the source to pay for the turnout gear pending ratification by the Commission. The total was just under \$20,000. Commissioner Rukowicz asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Colligan noted that he would have to abstain from the vote because of his new temporary leadership role in the Fire Department.

Commissioner Epstein asked if the turnout gear was for the new person that was hired. Commissioner Rukowicz clarified that the gear is for more than one person that was hired. There were 14 sets of gear. The sets included helmet, jacket, pants and boots. Chief Terenzio explained that most of the new staff is here. The first order for gear was when the Fire Department on boarded some people in July. There were additional members that came in after that date. They were hoping that some of the volunteers would switch to unscheduled part-time and do shifts, but that did not happen. At that point they had to onboard six additional people so they would not be exceeding 30 hrs./wk. for part-time status. The lack of gear was due to members not stepping up so they were essentially hoarding gear which was why the Chief had to purchase more gear. He found a company in Torrington, CT that can provide Cromwell with a lot of the gear for much less than what the Department had been paying. The company is out of Pennsylvania called Quaker Safety. The previous supplier

was averaging \$2,200 - \$2,500 for a set of gear. Quaker Safety found this company for \$1,700 per set. Commissioner Spotts asked if anyone had turned in any gear from the request that was made back in July. There were only two people that turned in their gear. The last thing the Chief wanted to do was "pull the trigger" on the people that were hoarding the gear. He did not want to call anyone out by taking away their gear when there was a need for people. He would be accused of trying to throw those individuals out.

Commissioner Colligan stated that the Chief had assigned him to contact those people that have not been participating. Commissioner Colligan met with some of them last Monday. He also had to have some of them shave their beards and be re-fit tested. Gear is being given to people that are stepping up. Those that don't step up need to turn in their gear.

Commissioner Epstein asked if new turnout gear meets the requirements needed. Chief Terenzio stated that the company is Quaker Safety. They are a new and upcoming company trying to break into the market. They meet the NFPA 1971 Standards. Dollar for dollar they surpass all the big names.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinners, seconded by Commissioner Epstein, and approved 5 to 0 to approve the purchase of new equipment from the Trust Fund. Commissioner Colligan abstained.

- C. MOU's/MOA's, Local Union 4662, Discussion and Possible Approval. Acting President Rukowicz asked Lt. Hallden, Firefighter Union President, to discuss each agreement individually. Lt. Hallden gave a summary of what has transpired to those that did not know the history of what had been happening. Back in June 2019 he and Lt. McKnight met with President Brow and Director Neto. In trying to finalize the Firefighter contract by July 1, for health insurance reasons, they agreed and acknowledged many issues that may potentially come up given the upcoming changes. They agreed they would handle them through small incremental changes/agreements as they come up. On October 11, 2019, an email went back and forth with two suggestions for behavior modifications that went to the Executive Director Neto who stated he would put it on the next Personnel Committee agenda. Lt. Hallden didn't remember what happened, but it was a while before a Personnel Committee meeting was scheduled.

On October 22, 2019, an email went to Director Neto, President Brow and Chief Terenzio. Two issues were identified along with a proposal for each. The next day a proposal from the Chief came to Lt. Hallden, President Brow and Director Neto on a third issue that the Chief had recognized. That was the last time this was discussed. On November 11, 2019, the Personnel Committee met and voted to approve the CBA. Two days later the full Commission met and had a question regarding something Attorney Weinstock had written which needed to be revised. The Union agreed to change it. Lt. Hallden stated that the conversations regarding these issues stopped after November. He does not understand how or why things before this were done. Both sides agreed they were important issues, yet they were never followed through.

Before discussing the three items brought before the Board today, he discussed the three items that have yet to be addressed. He understood that they did not have any of the information in front of them, and that it could not be addressed today, but because the Board was gracious enough to give Lt. Hallden the floor, he wished to talk about it. One of the proposals that came from the Union was a clarification on how seniority works. This was reaction to there being a transfer from another division of the District. Seniority needed to be

clarified, not in terms of vacation or sick time, but seniority within the unit or division itself to clarify if seniority would start the day the person starts that position or would it include time in another division. There was also a proposal sent out for mandatory overtime. There are times due to emergencies or unknown last minute leave time that the Chief will have to require that someone come in. Right now the Chief cannot do that because a policy or practice does not exist. Personnel do not want to be told what they have to do against their wishes, but the Union understands the Chief needs to be able to have something in place as a tool for the Chief or Dispatch Supervisor to be able to use. Although this concept was proposed, it was never discussed. Two days after that, a policy was discussed regarding filling an empty officer role. This has also not been discussed.

The three agreements to be discussed at this meeting had been emailed out to all the Commissioners. One is regarding the current situation regarding the current state of emergency. There is potentially some particular action that either the Chief's office or the District will have to take that the Union may not agree with. It is understood that these are unprecedented times. The proposal is to prohibit the filing of any grievances, prohibited practices, injunctions, etc. while this State of emergency is in effect as it would relate to any particular action that the Chief or the District would have to take to continue District operations or protect the people they are responsible to protect. He stated that the matter seems normal, but there should be some type of agreement in place.

Acting President Rukowicz suggested taking one agreement at a time to vote on. Lt. Hallden added that this agreement is specific in terms of timeframe which would be the time in which the State of Emergency is in place in the State of CT. It gives the Chief and the District the ability to make any decisions necessary to continue District operations. The expiration would be two days after the end of the State of Emergency. A copy of the agreement is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Terry, seconded by Commissioner Spotts and unanimously approved to accept the Memorandum of Agreement between the Firefighters Union and the District regarding the suspension of any Union actions against the District during a State of Emergency.

Lt. Hallden explained the second MOA which reads if any existing employee is ultimately diagnosed with Corona Virus and if that employee had a previous work-related exposure, the presumptive cause of that employee getting that virus would be the work-related exposure within the bounds of the law. He stated that Attorney Weinstock did make a small change to that language. A copy is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hanners, seconded by Commissioners Spotts and unanimously approved to accept the Memorandum of Agreement between the Firefighters Union and the District regarding an employee having a work-related exposure to the Corona virus.

The third agreement relates to Federal Assistance grants this year. The District was awarded a SAFER grant. Under that award, there are still two open positions. There are names for those positions. One of the particular candidates at the time of application did not have a valid CPAT. Back in late December/early January this particular candidate did schedule and make a reservation for a CPAT test, bought airline tickets, etc. His test was scheduled for March 24. The virus outbreak and travel restrictions went into effect the week before his testing date. The test was closed and testing was canceled nationwide. The agreement states

that the District approves this one time only hiring of this candidate. It is beyond his control that this candidate could not get his certification in time. The agreement states that the District and the Union have no objections to having this person start, and once restrictions are lifted, he will have a timeframe to get his certification done. Chief Terenzio will have the specifics of the timeframe. Chief Terenzio added that timing is everything, and every road block that comes up needs to be addressed. The Chief thanked the Union for being reasonable and understanding the Fire Department's needs, especially with CPAT and the individual that was involved. The Chief wholeheartedly supported this. A copy of this agreement is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office.

The Executive Director also had a few comments. One point is that there is only one particular candidate that this applies to. The other comment is that if the person does not pass the CPAT when it is scheduled, the Commission needs to recognize that the person will be removed from the payroll roster. This is a condition of employment. Commissioner Terry asked if Lt. Hallden understood the agreement. He noted that he and the Chief communicate on all agreements and both parties are aware and agree on the various conditions stipulated in the agreements that are drafted. It is understood that this candidate will be terminated if the CPAT requirement is not met. Commissioner Epstein asked what would happen should this person get injured while on the job, and unable to take the CPAT for a period of time. Will his eligibility to take the test be extended. If the person is injured while on the job here, Lt. Hallden thought that his timeframe would be extended. If the person were to get injured outside of here, that would be a roadblock that would need to be addressed at that time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinners, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and unanimously approved to accept the Memorandum of Agreement regarding a temporary one year CPAT requirement suspension.

Lt. Hallden reminded the Board of the three open issues that did not get resolved and possibly one or two more that were held over because of missed Personnel Committee Meetings back in the fall. He wants to work with the Chief and the Executive Director to get that information out to everyone, and possibly get a spot on the agenda for next month's virtual call for the Personnel Committee. He would like to take care of some of these open issues. The Chief added that one of the issues has to do with being able to call career personnel back, and the Chief currently does not have that ability. That needs to be worked out. It was noted that this would only be in effect on an operational level. The Chief added that the current situation that we all find ourselves in is considered an "all hands on deck" disaster. That is what it is being referred to as. This would allow the ability to call the most highly qualified staff through their experience and training. Acting President Rukowicz asked the Executive Director to head that up, along with the Chief and Commissioner Hinners since he is the Vice Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director added that since all three MOA's were passed at this meeting, at the end of the meeting he planned on asking Acting President Rukowicz to sign them. Also, Lt. Hallden as President of the Firefighters' Union will also sign them.

The Executive Director pointed out that the next item on the agenda was an update on COVID-19. It would be up to the Chief to allow Lt. Hallden to listen in on the update. The Chief did ask if Lt. Hallden could stay and listen to the update.

- D. Update on COVID-19 – Operations. The Executive Director asked that a "reader's digest" version of an update be given by the Chiefs and Lt. Hallden. The update would form a

perspective, and an opportunity for questions and answers. He added that there are weekly virtual meetings COVID-19/District/Fire Operations with the four Lieutenants, the Water Operations Manager, the Dispatch Supervisor, the Fire Chief and Lisa. Mr. Neto reported the District's employees are focused and aware of their surroundings and are above average in responding. The focus is on professionalism and safety. He feels they are performing what supersedes the average on the front lines. He thanked the players on the front lines.

The Chief began by stating that these have been trying times for everyone. He thanked Commissioner Colligan and Lt. Hallden for all their work. They have been instrumental in helping the Chief sort through all the information that comes in daily from all the various agencies. It is important to note that no one has ever dealt with something like this before. He added that everyone does know how to separate and protect themselves. The basics that are done every day to protect ourselves seem to be one of the effective measures in dealing with this. For any of his staff coming down with this virus to any degree, he wants everyone to isolate and keep the rest of the staff at bay because there are not enough staff members to respond to the needs of the public if members of the department start getting sick.

One of the things that seems to be most effective and led by the Fire Department that was researched and instituted by Acting Assistant Chief Colligan and Lt. Hallden is disinfectant spraying. It is not a new idea; other fire departments are doing it. They used equipment and materials that are already used on a regular basis. They have made this spray available to other surrounding towns, and they are using it. It has been noticed that the Fire Department is out in front in trying to protect the community. The Chief did a press release which he forwarded to the Executive Director and the President acknowledging their efforts.

They have been providing N95 testing through the extra efforts of the on-duty staff. They also distributed masks to the Police Department. They have been requested to assist the Adelbrook Community to do some of their N95 testing. The Chief stated that he had come up with a plan to address COVID 19 at the beginning of March. It started out as 6 pages, has been revised four times and is now up to 22 pages. The Chief has also taken some EMS crews and put them out at Coles Road. Fire response is out of Court St. Part-time unscheduled and volunteers who respond from home or work are at West St. This is all in an effort to keep the different groups separated to prevent cross-contamination. The Chief offered to send the plan to the Commissioners which highlights everything the Department has been doing.

The Chief reported that the FMO did come down with an exposure. The Fire Marshal who is being treated for cancer, feels that he had been exposed at the hospital. Before he knew his test results, he had reported back to duty a week ago this past Monday, but not before the Deputy Fire Marshal/Assistant Fire Chief and the newly hired Administrative Assistant was in the office. In guidance from the Department of Health, they found it best to quarantine those individuals as well as the Fire Marshal. The Town had asked the Chief to have some plan reviews for the Amazon project. One of the per diem inspectors, DJ Zordan, was off from his full-time job. He stepped up and completed those projects this past week. People are stepping up when they can with the abilities that they have.

There are reports that a volunteer and a police officer also tested positive. They are isolating themselves. The Department is responding to the needs of the Town at this time. The Chief reported that the Fire Department has been put in some high regard with the Town for their readiness and ability to respond to the needs of the Town. The Chief is being told that the current situation will be with us for the next week and a half to two weeks. Commissioner

Rukowicz complimented the Chief and staff on their incredible team work. He asked Chief Terenzio to send out to all the Commissioners the protocol and procedures for this pandemic to give them an idea of what is being done on a daily basis.

Commissioner Colligan spoke to say that this has been a trying time for everyone. He recognized those that stepped up in terms of working with the Chief's Office and the rest of the Fire Department. He recognized the Lieutenants, especially Lt. Hallden who was the research person. He did huge amounts of research while on duty. They used resources off the internet and communicated with other Firefighter unions. Commissioner Colligan also received information from his son who had information from the Providence Fire Department. Providence was said to be a couple weeks ahead of CT in terms of isolating. He also recognized the Executive Director for all the extra hours and work he is doing. These individuals are doing this extra work outside of the workplace without getting paid. This team has worked very well together. Commissioner Colligan has been listening to everyone's concerns. He stated that the order of protection in this situation is as follows: protecting yourself first, and then family, job and citizens.

Commissioner Epstein and Assistant Chief Brade have helped to issue hand disinfectant. Everyone on duty has been issued a bottle of hand sanitizer. These can be taken home and brought back to be refilled. Lisa has also been helpful in getting them refilled. They have also been issued to District employees. Everyone participating in these efforts has really put their heart into it, and become a team. Regarding the volunteers and unscheduled people, they met on Monday night for a drill. They are doing as much as they can to help out and provide backup. He added that Chip Darius has come back to the help out. He has recently been certified, and can also help as a driver or tech. Commissioner Colligan was very appreciative of everyone's efforts. He noted that after all of this pandemic if over with, there needs to be a meeting with all the key players, to form a committee and put an action plan together for the future.

Acting President Rukowicz noted that he took over as Acting President on Feb. 29. No one would have thought at that time that the pandemic situation would become what it is today. He advised that he meets with the Executive Director every morning at 8:30 AM for a couple of hours to discuss District business. Any decisions made are made jointly.

Acting President Rukowicz discussed how this pandemic could affect the Water Department. If a situation were to happen where the Water Department employees could not report to work, Mr. Palmieri has made arrangements with the City of Middletown to provide five workers and equipment. There is also an agreement with the Town Public Works Highway Department, where they will lend the Water Department manpower and equipment. He also noted that there have been weekly conference calls on Thursdays with Sal Nesci, Public Health Director in Cromwell, who leads the conference calls and provides the District with updates. Sometimes its old news, other times there is new news. Commissioner Rukowicz explained that there is a unified command call on Mondays. Those that participate are the Town Manager Public Health Director, Department heads, Chamber of Commerce and the Golf Tournament Director. There is always good information that is shared.

- E. Discussion and Possible Decision on Tax Deferrals for 90 Days Including Deferring Late Fees for Water Bill Payments for 90 Days. Acting President Rukowicz and the Executive Director discussed this issue with Attorney Kevin Deneen. Commissioner Rukowicz explained that what the District plans to do is the same as the Town by deferring sewer payments and the Town taxes. The Executive Director reported that there is a strong chance

that the Board of Finance for the Town of Cromwell will pass a measure to allow a tax deferred program for 90 days to give relief to the struggling citizens and businesses in the Town of Cromwell because of the pandemic. The District is attached to the billing cycle and tax collection. The Governor under his executive order has allowed this deferment. Mr. Neto asked if the Board wanted to evaluate and/or discuss the opportunity to give the taxpayers a 90 day relief of the District's tax and late fees on water bills. If the Board is considering doing this, they must vote on it. Attorney Deneen has been researching this issue. The Governor's order addresses municipalities. It did not include or exclude Fire Districts. If the Board were to move ahead with this, it would be based on the Executive Order that may be coming within two or three days. Mr. Neto asked the Town Manager, if the Board does not want to do a tax deferred program like the Town, what would the mechanics be, or should the District send their own bills out. Would the Tax Collector be able to collect the taxes coming in even though Town Hall is closed. The answer is for the District to set up a new process of accommodating sending out the bills and collecting taxes through Town Hall. All of that is doable but not preferable.

Commissioner Rukowicz added that under normal circumstances with the taxes for the Fire District, the Tax Collector for the Town puts it in the account with the Town taxes, and the Town collects the interest. If the Board passes this deferment, and the Town affirms it on their end, it doesn't mean a taxpayer has to wait to pay their bill. If they want to pay it the way they always have, they can. However, the taxpayers will be given extra months of no late fees. Also to consider is that the District will have very little revenue coming in over the next three months.

The Safety/Building Committee that was scheduled for today was canceled basically because of lack of funds to proceed with any corrective measures on any of the buildings. Their next meeting is scheduled for July which is the beginning of the new fiscal year. It will not be business as usual for the committees. Spending will not be allowed until October. The District will make payroll and pay their debts as required. They will not be able to do any capital projects. They will have to be deferred until after the three month window. Any large purchases need to be delayed because it would be taking capital or cash flow out of the funds used to pay operating expenses and contracts. It is assumed that businesses and taxpayers need this timeline so that they are not financially burdened. That is the position of the District that is being proposed.

Before a vote was taken Acting President Rukowicz asked each Commissioner (alphabetically by last name) if they had any comments on the proposal. He asked that comments be kept at 3 -5 min. in length. Commissioner Colligan was in favor of the proposal. He is a furloughed employee at his place of employment. It makes sense to do what the Town is doing to take care of its residents. Commissioner Epstein also agreed that the District should do what the Town is doing. Commissioner Hinnners agreed with everything said by Commissioners Colligan and Epstein. He did not think it was in the District's best interest to try to collect when the Town is showing concern and compassion. Commissioner Spotts also agreed with the others. He was very adamant about helping the citizens of Cromwell and the small businesses in Cromwell. Commissioner Terry commended Commissioner Spotts for his work on opposing the Board of Education's increase in their budget. He was successful in not allowing the BOE's budget increase to pass. Commissioner Terry's only question was if the District does not collect any money, can they still meet payroll. Mr. Neto stated that yes, the District would be able to meet their payroll and pay critical expenses to run the operation. What will need to stop are expenditures that are not critical, i.e., capital projects, emergency repairs for the first three

months. Mr. Neto stated that the District cannot expend any money that they don't have until sometime in October. Commissioners Terry and Spotts were in favor of making it as easy as possible on the community.

Commissioner Epstein asked how this would affect the communication project or the rechasis of an ambulance. The Executive Director stated that the Communication project was funded prior to the tax deferment issue and is not tied to the tax money coming in for July, August or September. Regarding the ambulance, until the budget is approved, there is not enough money today to rechasis the ambulance. If the Board approves the additional \$40,000, it will be put into next year's budget. Mr. Neto will in turn delay any of that until November 1. That is a lot of money to be spent before collecting any tax revenue that we are putting on hold.

Acting President Rukowicz asked the Commissioners especially those that are Chairmen of Committees to look ahead and see if they want to have any of their meetings because there will not be much revenue coming in. Any Committee that has plans involving expenditures will not be able to move forward with limited funding coming in.

Acting President Rukowicz and the Executive Director have already reviewed the budget. Within the next couple of weeks the Acting President hopes to have a teleconference with other members of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director and the Department heads. This will be an opportunity to ask questions. Once those budgets have been reviewed, a final draft will be done, and copies will be placed in each Commissioner's box for review. They will have one week to review and it will be discussed at the next monthly meeting or a Special Meeting will be called. The Commissioners will be allowed to prepare any questions they may have to discuss at the Special Meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Spotts, seconded by Commissioner Colligan, and unanimously approved to follow suit with the Town on tax deferment and late fees on water bills for 90 days pursuant to the Executive Order of the Governor allowing Fire Districts the same opportunity they have done for municipalities. Attorney Deneen has advised that this is just a formality. If the Governor does not give that authority, the District cannot supersede the Statutes. It was noted that there will be an ad in the paper or a Press Release. Acting President Rukowicz wanted it noted in the paper that the Commission had a unanimous vote on the deferment issue. The Executive Director noted that he will speak to Jeff Mill regarding doing a Press Release. He will also speak to Mark Depaolo of the Rare Reminder. If they do not publish anything, a couple of weeks before the budget meeting an ad will be taken out to alert the public.

- V. Commissioners' Comments. Acting President Rukowicz went down the list of Commissioners alphabetically to ask for their comments. Commissioner Colligan discussed the rechasis of the ambulance. He asked the Chief if a vendor has been chosen or if anyone is moving forward to get a chasis to do the job. The Chief will have the mechanic reach out to the company that is very familiar with Cromwell's equipment. There was a quote of \$124,000. They are ready to begin through a State bid which includes the chasis. Commissioner Colligan suggested that the Executive Director and the Chief be prepared with everything ready to go. At the 90 day mark the ambulance can be done. Capital expenditures will be on hold until Nov. 1. The Chief asked if this would also include the need to possibly replace Tack 4, the Tactical unit with a lease/purchase option if possible. He also put in a \$600,000 request for a new fire truck. Commissioner Colligan noted that they should be prepared ahead of time with all the paperwork and preliminary documents for capital

expenditures so that come Nov. 1, they will be in a position to move forward. Commissioner Colligan gave a big thank you to Brett Hallden, Chief Terenzio, office staff, etc. Everyone should be commended for all the hard work that has been done over the last two weeks.

Commissioner Epstein stated that he thinks the District is in the right direction. He encouraged weekly or biweekly communication with all divisions. He asked the Chief if there is any equipment that he is having a hard time obtaining. There is a good supply of BSI and PPE. Shipments have been coming in. Commissioner Epstein reported that 200,000 masks arrived at the state warehouse yesterday and should be arriving next week or the end of this week. There was a discussion regarding disposable masks being turned into N95 masks. Acting Assistant Chief Colligan and Lt. Hallden have been able to obtain more reusable masks through sources on the internet. There was a small cost involved in transforming the masks but knowing this issue may come back in the fall, the District will be saving money by already having the masks needed. The cost was approximately \$200.

Commissioners Hinnens and Spotts appreciated the update, and recognized the good work being done. Commissioner Terry had the same thoughts, and thanked all the employees, volunteers and the Commission for stepping up and showing the community how the District can help them.

Acting President Rukowicz discussed the teleconferencing that will take the place of group meetings. This meeting today was done via teleconference as were a couple of meetings prior to this. He stated that he thinks the process went well, and as more meetings are done this way, the Board will get a better feel for what is happening.

Mr. Neto had just gotten off the phone with the Town Manager. He reported that the Town Council just had their meeting, and the tax deferred program did pass. The District will be following suit. Acting President Rukowicz thanked everyone for their participation and cooperation. He also thanked everyone for respecting and cooperating with Commissioner Colligan in his temporary role as Acting Chief. He thanked everyone for the team effort.

- VI. Public Comment. Lt. Hallden was part of the conference call and asked if he could make a comment. He spent a lot of time speaking with fire departments, fire union associations and non-unionized public safety associations. He spoke to 82 departments in total that got the virus before us or had it worse than us. He discussed the various virus-related scenarios and post virus situations. He hoped that down the road the District would also be able to sit down and evaluate what processes worked and didn't work or do better. The experience has been positive in terms of people coming together and working together. Commissioner Rukowicz agreed with the points made by Lt. Hallden.

The meeting ended on this quote from one of Chief Terenzio's reference books, "emergencies which the Fire Department deals with every day are unforeseeable, but predictable. When an emergency goes beyond what is predictable, and disrupts the social fabric and routine, it is called a disaster." We are dealing with a disaster in terms of emergency management, readiness and response. After a disaster, it is called a catastrophe. It is not just about the loss of lives, it is about the disruption of society including the economy and our way of life.

VII. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Spotts, seconded by Commissioner Terry and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 PM.

ATTEST:

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary
5-4-20



Jason Hinners, Secretary