

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. Attendance was in-person and by Zoom. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Police Chief William Baldwin, Police Captain Louis Gonzalez, Fire Chief Eric Borden, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung, and Board of Safety Commissioners Douglas Benedetto, Glenn McLeod, Joe McElroy, Gregg Cogswell, Molly Spino, and Darlene Battle. Torrington VFD Commissioner Scott Mills was also in attendance.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public was present who wished to speak.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Regular meeting minutes from October 5, 2022.

COMPLETION OF A PROBATIONARY PERIOD

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept Officer Noe Gaudette as a regular member of the Torrington Police Department completing his probationary period on October 22, 2022. Commissioner McLeod asked if it was possible to have the Officer present when approving the end of their probationary period, and Chief Baldwin said it was.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept Police Chief Baldwin's report for September 2022.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept Fire Chief Borden's report for September 2022.

EMS PROVIDER ACTIVITY REPORTS: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS provider activity report for September 2022. Commissioner Benedetto asked when the report shows a Fire Department Assist, does that count when the Fire Department shows up on the scene, EMS Manager Jeff Ganung explained that it was not and that it was reported if they needed entry to the house. Commissioner McLeod said that in September there were 9 calls for mutual aid coverage from outside of town, he wanted to know how many were in October, Mr. Ganung explained that he didn't know the number off the top of his head but assumed right around the same number.

BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Volunteer Fire Departments. Torrington VFD Commissioner Scott Mills let the Board know that they will be selling Christmas Trees again this year. They will be delivered the day before Thanksgiving, and there will be a limited number of trees and limited hours during which they will be open.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads. Police Chief Baldwin, Fire Chief Borden, and EMS Manager Jeff Ganung gave the latest updates from their departments.

Commissioner Battle arrived at 6:52 p.m.

Commissioner McLeod asked if the City needed another ambulance company to keep the fire trucks in the house, Chief Borden explained that the reason the Fire Department is going on the calls is to see if they can offer potentially life-saving assistance before the ambulance arrives. Commissioner McLeod went on to say that he was worried about the wear and tear on the Fire Trucks going to all the calls that they are, Chief Borden said that they only go to higher priority calls, not the nosebleeds for example. Mayor Carbone explained to the Board that she has met with Chief Borden to discuss the Public Service Area (PSA) which is part of the EMS plan for Torrington. Mr. Ganung explained further to the Board that yes, another ambulance in town would be helpful, for instance, they received 10, 9-1-1 Emergency calls in 51 minutes the other day, therefore needed to pass calls to other towns for mutual assistance. He went on to say that they receive over 700 emergency calls in a month, and only pass 10 off for mutual assistance. He said that there are times when there isn't anything going on for hours and then they are hit with 5 or 6 emergency calls in a half hour. Commissioner Benedetto asked how the City would be able to get another ambulance, Mayor Carbone explained that it would be a part of the contract negotiations that would be happening before May, as the current MOU with Trinity is expiring then. She went on to say that she has been meeting with Chief Borden, and Deputy Chief Tripp to go over what they

would like to see in the new MOU and the PSA. Commissioner McElroy shared that Connecticut was one of the few states where the Fire Department wasn't also EMS for the towns. He went on to say that he would like Chief Borden to continue his research by having the Fire Department respond to EMS calls and report back to the Board, especially with the population of Torrington increasing, there will need to be more Police Officers, Firemen, and EMS.

BUSINESS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public Safety.

Commissioner McElroy said that he appreciated the showing of the Torrington Police Department at the Bristol Police Officers ceremony.

Commissioner Cogswell wanted everyone to take a moment for the Bristol Police Department. He went on to acknowledge the Torrington Police Department for reaching out and offering support as quickly as they did.

Commissioner Battle offered support for all the First Responders.

AGENDA ADD-ON

On a motion by Commissioner Battle, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board voted unanimously to add Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment to the agenda.

FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Cogswell, seconded by Commissioner Spino, the Board, on the recommendation of the Gear Committee, Chief Eric Borden, and Purchasing Agent Pennie Zucco, voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City to award, execute, and administer a contract to purchase approximately 10 sets of PPE at the price of \$2,999 per set, from Brigham Industries, Inc. of Paxton, MA, as further described in the Purchasing Agents letter dated November 9, 2022. Funding for this will be from the Fire Department Capital account, pending City Council approval.

AGENDA ADD-ON

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to add Deputy Police Chief to the agenda.

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Spino, the Board voted unanimously to appoint the Board of Public Safety as a search committee for the purposes of filling the position of Deputy Police Chief.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Spino, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK