

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall auditorium on Wednesday, October 7, 2020. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, members of the public were able to attend the meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Board members and City staff also had the option to join the meeting remotely.

The meeting was attended in-person by Mayor Elinor Carbone, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Fire Chief Peter Towey, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous, Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung and Commissioners Douglas Benedetto, Dustin Bingham, Glenn McLeod, Joseph McElroy and Gregg Cogswell. Commissioner Darlene Battle was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 2, 2020. Commissioner Cogswell abstained.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Chief's report. Commissioner Benedetto requested an explanation for overtime expenses and Chief Towey credited recent training sessions for a large portion of the overtime.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept Deputy Fire Chief Tripp's report.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT: TABLED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to table acceptance of Training Officer Shopey's report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Emergency Management report.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Marshal's report.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Police Chief's report. Commissioner Benedetto requested an update on the distracted driving grant which the TPD applied for and Chief Baldwin reported that they were awarded the grant. Commissioner Benedetto also requested an update on vacancies within the TPD and Chief Baldwin reported on progress being made to fill some of the vacancies.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS UNIT REPORT: TABLED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to table acceptance of the Traffic Operations Unit report.

EMS PROVIDER ACTIVITY REPORT: APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS provider activity report. Commissioner Benedetto expressed concerns about the response time for an incident that occurred at Winsted Road on September 18, 2020. Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung discussed the incident and stated that Litchfield County Dispatch reported a response time of seven minutes.

BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the volunteer fire departments. Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous reported that Drakeville's pasta dinner fundraiser was a success and he thanked everyone for their support. He also reported that Drakeville's tanker was back in service and commented on the success of the live burn event. Commissioner Bingham questioned the discrepancy in repair costs for Drakeville's tanker compared to the amount that was estimated at a previous Board of Public Safety meeting and Chief Maccalous explained that the mechanics found additional damages when the tanker was being serviced. Chief Towey noted that insurance would cover most of the costs, with the exception of approximately \$900.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Chief Baldwin reported that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. He also provided updates on progress being made with narcotics arrests and arrests being made with respect to a commercial burglary that took place in Torrington. The Chief reported that the P.A.L. charity golf tournament was successful and much of the P.A.L. programs were put on hold due to the coronavirus.

Chief Towey announced that October is Fire Prevention Month and reported on some of the recent activity involving the TFD, including two second-alarm fires and the repavement of the North End Fire Station. He also reported that he was working to identify vehicle replacements and new funding opportunities, including an Assistance for Firefighters grant that could fund the salary for a new firefighter to fill an existing vacancy. Commissioner Benedetto requested an update on the City's COVID-19 cases and Chief Towey reported that the City was in good shape.

Deputy Chief Tripp thanked the Fire Department, the Board of Public Safety and all who showed their support after the passing of his brother.

Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung stated that there was paving being done at Trinity's Torrington location and reported that there was a small uptick in COVID cases.

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

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

Commissioner Bingham thanked the Department Heads for communicating with the Board regularly.

Commissioner McElroy commended the public safety departments for their hard work.

Commissioner Benedetto asked if the Police Department was experiencing a rise in car break-ins and Chief Baldwin reported that the number of cases was trending upwards throughout the region. Commissioner Benedetto also expressed concerns about speeding on Torrington East Street and illicit activity on the bike trail near the Harwinton town line. Chief Baldwin explained the jurisdictional issues with police enforcement but noted that bike officers patrol the bike path as much as possible.

Commissioner Cogswell commended the Drakeville VFD and P.A.L. for their successful fundraising events and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Commissioner McLeod welcomed Commissioner Cogswell to the Board and asked Chief Baldwin for his thoughts on speed bumps. Chief Baldwin explained that speed bumps could create a liability issue for the City when vehicles with low clearance are damaged. He also noted the challenges that speed bumps pose for plow trucks.

Commissioner Benedetto requested an update on the food drive that is to be hosted by Friendly Hands Food Bank. Chief Towey reported that Friendly Hands secured the food for distribution and stated that he would be present in the morning to help get them going.

Mayor Carbone brought up concerns about voter safety with respect to COVID-19 and politicians gathering outside of polling locations. She discussed some of the measures that should be taken to ensure the public's safety, including standing six feet apart and wearing masks. Commissioner McLeod agreed and urged the Police to monitor the polling locations closely. Commissioner McLeod commented that voter turnout may not be as high as usual at the polls due to a rise in absentee voting and Assistant City Clerk Jonathan Draper confirmed that the City Clerk's office had already issued more than 4,000 absentee ballots for the November 3rd Presidential Election (4 times that of the 2016 Presidential Election).

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK