

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall auditorium on Wednesday, December 2, 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 and Commissioners Douglas Benedetto, Dustin Bingham and Joseph McElroy. 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, Corporation Counsel Victor Muschell and Commissioners Gregg Cogswell, Glenn McLeod and Darlene Battle participated by ZOOM.

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

**MINUTES: APPROVED**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 4, 2020.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: APPROVED**

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

**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: APPROVED**

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

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: APPROVED**

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

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: APPROVED**

On a motion by Commissioner McElroy, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, 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 McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Police Chief's report. Commissioner Benedetto requested updates regarding the Coffee with a Cop event on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the parking lot reconstruction at the Police Department. Chief Baldwin explained that the Coffee with a Cop event was attended by the Community Relations Officer and Atty. Muschell clarified that the City would not have to pay for the paving contractor's error.

**EMS PROVIDER ACTIVITY REPORT: APPROVED**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS provider activity report.

**BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the volunteer fire departments. No business was reported.

**FIREGROUND MOBILE REPEATER SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION CONTRACT: APPROVED**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Fire Chief's request to waive the City's bid process and utilize the State of Connecticut contracts with Motorola (Master Contract #A-99-001) and NorcomCT (Contract #19PSX0088) to complete the initial implementation phase of the Fireground Mobile Repeater System project for the total cost of \$45,000.01 to be paid for with funding from Capital Reserve; pending approval by the City Council. Chief Towey confirmed the total costs of the implementation phase contracts and Commissioner Bingham requested an explanation of the total estimated cost for the entire project. Chief Towey reported that the total cost to complete the entire telecommunications project would be approximately \$500,000 and he explained that the TFD might be able to leverage the City's investment to increase their opportunities for grant funding to offset some of the cost.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT AMMUNITION CONTRACT: APPROVED**

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Police Department's request to waive the City's bid process and utilize the State of Connecticut contract with Eagle Point Gun of Thorofare, NJ (Contract #19PSX0220) for ammunition for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024 for the estimated total cost of \$24,500; pending approval by the City Council.

**BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS**

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

Chief Baldwin announced that Officer Giovanni Guerrera retired and accepted a position with the Middlebury Police Department. The Chief also informed the Board members that the P.A.L. Toy Drive was set to take place at Walmart on Saturday, December 5, 2020, but other P.A.L. events would be postponed until at least January 19, 2021. In addition, he reported that one officer was in quarantine due to potential COVID exposure. Commissioner Bingham requested information regarding the volume of complaints for COVID violations. Chief Baldwin reported that the TPD had received twelve total complaints and the Mayor reported that her office received four additional complaints. Commissioner Bingham requested clarification regarding the Governor's increase on fines for COVID-19 violations and the Chief explained that the fines would be issued through the Torrington Area Health District to establishments that violate the Executive Orders. Commissioner Cogswell requested a report on the number of police officers that have left the TPD for different police departments and Mayor Carbone requested that the Chief indicate which of the departures were retirements.

Chief Towey thanked the Board for approving the Fireground Mobile Repeater System contracts, reported that the number of COVID-19 cases was rising and provided an update on efforts to provide shelter for the homeless. He reported that one member of the TFD was coming off of quarantine while another was being put into isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test. Chief Towey also reported on the IAFF Local 1567's annual Toy Drive. Commissioner Benedetto requested information regarding possible changes to Torrington Public Schools' (TPS) plans as a result of rising COVID-19 cases and Chief Towey reported that TPS was monitoring the COVID-19 situation with consultation from the Torrington Area Health District, but he deferred to the Superintendent of Schools to provide any specific information regarding plans for continued remote and/or in-person learning.

Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung reported that there were multiple cardiac arrests during the month of November and he thanked the TFD and TPD for their assistance. He also provided an update on Trinity's Toy Drive for the Torrington Area Youth Service Bureau.

Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous reported that Drakeville had two new members and he thanked Torrington for lending the DVFD some SCBA bottles.


**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. Commissioners McElroy, Benedetto, Bingham, Cogswell and Battle wished everyone a happy holiday season. Commissioner Battle also welcomed Commissioner Cogswell to the Board and Commissioner McLeod requested clarification regarding the Board's role with respect to a request made by a surviving spouse for benefits under the fire fighters contract. Mayor Carbone and Atty. Muschell discussed the next steps and explained that they would try to pull together a meeting of the Board of Trustees next week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.

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

ATTEST:   
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK