

MINUTES

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

January 3, 2018

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Commissioners Darlene Battle, Douglas Benedetto, Robert Conforti, Richard Zaharek, Angelo LaMonica and Glenn McLeod. Also present were Police Chief Michael Maniago, Fire Chief Gary Brunoli, Deputy Police Chief Christopher Smedick, Fire Marshal Ed Bascetta and Campion Ambulance Director of Operations Fred Rosa.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS

Nathan Gryniuk was presented with an award from Campion Ambulance for his quick action, going 'above and beyond', when he called 9-1-1 on his mother's behalf.

Chief's Secretary Michele Ciesco was recognized by Mayor Carbone for 30 years of service to the Police Department.

MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner LaMonica, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular meeting held October 4, 2017.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. There was no one present who wished to speak.

REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Zaharek, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept Police Chief Maniago's Report.

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept Officer Pisarski's Traffic Operations Unit Report.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept Fire Chief Brunoli's Report. Chief Brunoli noted that applications for the Deputy Chief position close on Friday and that he hopes to have the process completed by February.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept Training Officer Tripp's Report.

On a motion by Commissioner Battle, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Emergency Management Report.

On a motion by Commissioner Zaharek, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Marshal's Report.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS Provider Activity Report.

BUSINESS: VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Volunteer Fire Departments. Tarringford reported that they have two new Black Helmets and will have another in a few weeks for a total of five.

BUSINESS: DEPT. HEADS

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

Chief Maniago said one new officer graduated from the Academy this past month and two new-hires are in the Academy currently. He thanked Deputy Chief Smedick for 36 years of service.

Dept. Chief Smedick said it has been an honor and privilege to serve.

Chief Brunoli thanked the members of Local 1567, especially FF Brian Parks and FF Elliott Bickford, for their efforts in making their *Christmas for Children Program* a success. He also thanked all the members of Local 1567 for their effort in planning and executing the wake and funeral for Deputy Chief Pepler, as well as Fire Departments from Waterbury, North Haven, Naugatuck, Southington, West Hartford, Bristol and Drakeville. Chief Brunoli thanked Charlie and Pat Marciano for their years of service to the City and Torrington VFD. He thanked Deputy Chief Smedick for his years of service, efforts and cooperation with the Fire Department.

Mr. Rosa also thanked Deputy Chief Smedick for his years of service, and thanked Torrington VFD for a joint operation gathering medical supplies for a hospital in the Dominican Republic. He reported that Campion has one new paramedic, a welcome addition after a very busy month.

Discussion on Deputy Fire Chief Vacancy

Commissioner McLeod expressed his objection to the lack of information regarding the filling of the Deputy Fire Chief position and to changes in the job description, specifically the requirement to be a resident of Torrington. Chief Brunoli said the Chiefs of the Torrington Fire Department should have a vested interest in the spending of our tax dollars and in the running of Fire Department Operations. Commissioner McLeod said no other city position has that requirement and that all members of the Fire Department should have the chance to strive for top positions.

Commissioner Benedetto objected to the elimination of the Fire Service Subcommittee from the process, saying he wants to see the best candidate for the job.

Commissioner LaMonica said that as a life-long Torrington resident he is in favor of hiring local residents.

Mayor Carbone said that preferences in a job description, such as being a member of the Fire Department, or being a local resident, should not deter any otherwise qualified person from applying. She assured the Board that the Fire Service Subcommittee is to be involved and included in those interviews.

Commissioner Conforti said he wants to see the best thing for Torrington, a candidate with a vested interest in the City.

Commissioner Zaharek said he agrees that the ability to be a Chief someday is important for City Firefighters, and that the disqualifier should not be residency.

Commissioner Battle said she is only interested in picking the best candidate for the City.

Mayor Carbone noted that this position is for an Emergency Responder whose proximity to the area does weigh heavily in their ability to serve as a Commanding Officer. She encouraged the Board to respect what the Chief recognizes he needs to run a good department.

Chief Brunoli said that all previous Fire Chiefs have lived in the City of Torrington and that he feels the residency requirement is very important.

Mayor Carbone called a point of order, noting that the Board of Public Safety appointed the Fire Chief to run the Department, which included the confidence to recognize where its leadership will come from. She said this Board should respect Chief Brunoli.

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BUSINESS: MAYOR & MEMBERS

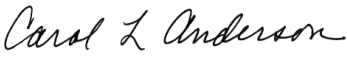
On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public Safety.

Congratulations were extended by all to the newly elected, Deputy Chief Smedick, Michele Ciesco, Sgt. Russo and the Marcianos.

Mayor Carbone said that change is always hard. She expressed her confidence in our Chiefs, Deputy Chief and this Board and noted that the processes they set up always bring a good result. Mayor Carbone said she appreciates this Board's insight and asked the Commissioners to be patient and respectful through this process.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Zaharek, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK