

Centerville-Osterville Marstons Mills Fire Department

Fire Commissioners' Meeting

April 27, 2020

Minutes

The Board of Fire Commissioners meeting opened at 1706 hrs. Fire Commissioners Macallister, Riley and Frank (at 1725 hrs) were in attendance along with Chief Winn, Deputy Chief Eldridge, 2346 President M. Rogers, K. Thut and others.

Roll call was taken. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the April 2, 2020 meeting. There was one (1) ambulance waiver to be continued to next month. No public comment.

COVID-19

2346 MOU regarding alternate staffing. Chief Winn described the thresholds to alternate staffing (mitigating burnout with excessive holdovers) and the required "sunset" clause.

Chief discussed the DPH notifying COMM when residents test positive for COVID. PPE requirements for calls to Cape Regency were relayed as well as positive case numbers.

CORRESPONDENCE

A "thank you" vehicle parade on 4/22 was organized by Pastor Judson Adams of Cape Faith.

Freelance photojournalist Christine Hochkeppel to record the town's efforts during COVID 19 on 4/30 (supervised by Capt. Adams.) **Christine's request conditionally granted.**

PERSONNEL

- Andrew Reed – out since 3/23/20, expected return mid-May.
- Mike Carney – out due to shoulder surgery since 3/2/20, expected return 5/27/20
- Mike Simmons – out on Administrative leave

FIRE PREVENTION

See attached.

EMS

COVID-19. Through extraordinary efforts by many COMM members we are currently satisfied with PPE supplies, including gowns, gloves, N95s and surgical masks. EMTs are required to wear masks on ALL calls and to mask their patients as well. N95s are mandatory for any suspect COVID patient or any aerosol procedure. Protocols instituted by CCH, CIEMS, Office of Civil Rights (HIPAA) and ambulance billing are reviewed and then disseminated to COMM FFs. Information is kept succinct and pertinent to avoid overloading in-boxes.

All EMTs in need of recertification have completed the process. The purchase of a new ambulance will be postponed to FY22 to mitigate the costs of operations during this pandemic. **Other capital items will be covered with available "free cash."**

DISPATCH

As of the end of March we have Dispatched 1030 calls involving COMM units, which is down 17 as compared to the first quarter of 2019. The March total was 335, 225 of which were EMS related. In addition we handled 50 calls for Cotuit last month, giving them a three month total of 217, up by 46 runs compared to last year. As of this writing on

April 18th, COMM has 192 calls so far this month, which indicates that April's call volume will likely be much less than April 2019's 399 runs.

Keeping up to the changing conditions of the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to be the major focus of Dispatch operations, as it is elsewhere in the Department. With guidance from EMS division, each caller is asked a series of screening questions, and responding units are notified as to the status of Covid exposure or potential exposure at each address. We are also tracking the locations of all positive Covid addresses, using the live spread sheet being maintained by the Duty Officers as they are notified by the Chief and the Department of Health. Tags are placed in our dispatch mapping software for all addresses throughout the town of Barnstable, for maximum awareness should we respond mutual aid to another District. A printed back up binder of all Covid-19 related Updates and Communications is being maintained at the Dispatch position for easy reference and referral. Fire Prevention Officers MacNelly and Grossman are continuing their training as Spare Dispatchers, to be able to assist as needed should dispatch staffing be affected by quarantine or illness. In addition, retired Dispatcher Jeff Gifford remains available. The Dispatchers are also participating in the daily Roll Call meetings via Zoom.

Open Burning Season for 2020 will end on May 1st by State Mandate. As of today (4/18) 46 of the 95 days have been deemed as allowable for burning, as determined daily by the duty officer using the daily State Fire Weather report provided through Barnstable County Control.

EQUIPMENT

Report for March & April: On Engine 305 pump switch replaced, Ladder 307 was sent to Minuteman for an oil locker which was a large job to replace the valve cover gasket. Boat 310 was brought to Crosby's for bottom painting and recommissioning. She is currently in service and has already been on 2 missions this year. A broken door handle was repaired on Engine 305. New hires were trained on 305, 306 and 307 and granted access to Knox boxes. **All boat operators are up-to-date on training, etc.**

OPERATIONS

Crews were praised for their actions at a small fire on Blueberry in Marstons Mills.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Status quo for this time of year, normal maintenance with a strong emphasis on sanitizing all stations. When weather permits outdoor projects are beginning. **There was significant damage caused by a broken sprinkler pipe at Station 2.**

BUDGET

FY 2020 is beginning week 44/52 or 84.6% complete. Please see provided information.

TRAINING

Training for May 2020

FIRE TRAINING:

Marine Operations

- Practical Boat 310: including start-up procedures and review of new motors/steering/electronics/FLIR
- Practical Small Boats: (311,312,313)
- Emergency Action Plan/Fire Prevention Policy 603
 - Watch PowerPoint (required annually per Lexipol Policy 603)

EMS TRAINING:

- Stretcher Safety

- COT SAFE- Prodigy Class
 - Glucometer
 - Glucometer Review- Prodigy Class
- (Both classes are mandatory once a year per OEMS)

OFFICER TRAINING:

- IAFC Article: Creating Trust with Your Crew (<https://www.iafc.org/iCHIEFS/iCHIEFS-article/creating-trust-with-your-crew>)

PLANNING

District Annual Meeting – alternatives. **June 23, 2020 is the tentative date set for District Meeting.**

COMMITTEES

MISCELLANEOUS

Upcoming events:

May 25 – Memorial Day – Admin closed

Mike Rogers asked about availability/reliability of antibody testing for COVID.

Capt. Sargent mentioned COMM's participation in recent "birthday drive bys" for our residents.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 1754 hrs. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2020.

Fire Prevention Update March 2020

The month of March showed the first significant impact of the virus on services provided to the public by Fire Prevention. Inspections, education, and enforcement was severely curtailed especially the second half of the month.

The Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts scheduled monthly meeting was held in Auburn. The educational portion of the meeting consisted of a discussion of risk assessment for businesses by FM Global and blasting procedures and permitting put on by the DFS.

In addition, both inspectors did attend one day of the annual Fire Chief's Association of Massachusetts annual conference in Worcester representing FPAM. Both inspectors also provided a fire prevention session for the 5 new recruits.

No new Site Plan Review projects were submitted for COMM Fire District this past month. Construction continued on the following commercial projects Garrett's Family Market 1617 Falmouth Road and Riedell's P&H new storage building at the rear of 778 Main Street, Osterville

This past month a total of (73) permits were issued by the Fire Prevention Office while collecting \$1765.00 in permit fees. Resale inspections of homes was the most common type of permit (45) and inspection (63). Overall the Fire Prevention Officers completed (144) inspections and/or activities (6) of which were Senior Safe Grant visits.

Martin MacNeely
Michael Grossman
Fire Prevention Officers