

Cromwell Fire District

1 West Street
Cromwell, CT 06416
Telephone 860-635-4420

FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Apparatus Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 3, 2022

5:30 PM

Coles Road Firehouse

105 Coles Road

Cromwell, CT

Present: Commissioners Jason Hinners (Chairman), Charles Epstein and Robert McIntyre. Also attending was Executive Director Julius Neto, Fire Chief Jason Balletto, Michael Hanratty from Firematic, Firefighter Union Local 4662 Rep. Lt. Brett Hallden and Commissioner Robert Donohue. Commissioner David Colligan was absent.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM, by Chairman Hinners. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Hinners.
- II. Approval of Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as submitted.
- III. Public Comment. There were no public comments to report.
- IV. Discussion and Decisions on Final Specs for the New Apparatuses. Mr. Mike Hanratty was present from Firematic. After the last Fire Operations Committee meeting, it was decided to call an Apparatus Committee meeting to make final decisions on the first truck that will be delivered at the end of March. The decision was to determine the color of the roof and the paint break. The three options would be: option 1 would be red roof on a red truck which is what the specs call for now, option 2 would be a white roof and option 3 would be a grey top. As the spec reads, it is a single color truck. If it is decided to go with a 2 tone truck, the cost would be \$1,800. If a metallic color is chosen, it would be an additional \$1,200. He brought some paint samples with him. Commissioner Epstein did not want to spend any additional funds on paint. He felt that for that amount of money, it would be better used on equipment for the Department. Both Commissioners McIntyre and Hinners liked what the Fire Department has now. Chief Balletto had discussed this with some of the fire fighters that have been around for a while. Many liked what the Department currently has which is red, white with gold leaf. Lt. Hallden did not think this conversation had any merit. He pointed out all the things that are needed in the Fire Department that costs money. He did not think this type of money should be spent on paint color of a truck.

A motion was made by Commissioner McIntyre to go with a white cab. The motion was not seconded.

A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and approved 2 to 1 to order the truck color that was originally priced out. That would be a red on red truck. Commissioner Hinners voted nay.

For the second truck, Mr. Hanratty noted that the spec on the second truck does have white over red. The reason the first truck is all red is because it is a stock unit.

The Executive Director brought up the issue of what to do with apparatus we are replacing. There has been some discussion about selling apparatus, but nothing final. The Chairman wanted to discuss the old apparatus at this meeting. With the assistance of Mike Hanratty, Chief Balletto and Acting Chief Petrucelli reached out to a couple of wholesalers selling used apparatus. They contacted a company from Alabama, Ridley Mountain. They received a market value for Truck 1. The market value of Truck 1 right now is \$350,000. It has lost 2/3 of its value since Cromwell has had it which is since 2006. When it was purchased it was valued at \$1.1 million. They are also in the process of looking into the value of Engine 2. The Chief's goal was to be able to sell both pieces and get over \$500,000 for both. The funds could be put back in apparatus replacement.

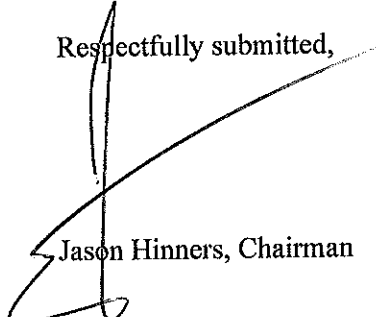
Cromwell has a lot of equipment for apparatus they don't use. They are spending money on apparatus that doesn't get used because they still need repair. Truck 1 is still broken. They are getting close to the \$15,000 mark. There is still an air leak in the transfer case. Chris Logan is still working on it. It has been out of service since November. It was out of service being worked on in Greensboro, MA for almost 12 weeks. They are not getting the parts to fix it. They do not have a company locally to fix it. That is why it went to Greensboro. The Chief would like to sell these pieces and put the money in the Apparatus Replacement fund. It will also give them the opportunity to get rid of pieces that they don't use. It will lower the cost of SCBA's that need to be purchased. If Truck 1 and Ladder 1 stay in service, the Chief would need to purchase 15 SCBA's at a cost of \$160,000. The Chief's goal would be to get rid of Ladder 3 and Engine 1 and get a 100 foot aerial platform. Based on the Board's involvement in fire operations, Lt. Hallden commented that Commissioners should give careful consideration to apparatus replacement needs and future needs. He feels that the Fire Department has a lot of excess.

- V. Commissioners' Comments. Commissioner Epstein suggested the Apparatus Committee have a meeting with the Fire Operations Committee. There was a lengthy discussion regarding apparatus purchases and the needs of the Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and unanimously approved to schedule a meeting between the Apparatus Committee and the Fire Operations Committee to discuss apparatus planning and make some final decisions. Chief Balletto and the Executive Director will also plan a conference call with the company from Alabama for pricing.

- VI. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Jason Hinners, Chairman

N. Deegan
Recording Secretary