

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 **Fire Department Operations Committee**

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

5:30 PM

**105 Coles Road
Cromwell, CT**

Present: Commissioners John Hamlin (Chairman), Charles Epstein and David Colligan. Also attending were Fire Chief Michael Terenzio, Deputy Fire Chief Michael Salonia, Assistant Fire Chief D.J. Zordan and Assistant Fire Chief EMS Robert McIntyre. Committee members absent were Rick Andersen and Commissioner Lee Brow.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM, by Chairman Hamlin.
- II. Approval of Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Hinnens and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as submitted with the following addition: Discussion of Training Tower with Deputy Chief Salonia. This will be added under Item 6. Reports of Chief Officers.
- III. Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2016. A motion was made by Commissioner Colligan, seconded by Commissioner Rukowicz and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2016, Fire Department Operations Committee Meeting.
- IV. Public Comment. There were no public comments to report.
- V. Communications Report. It was noted that Rick Andersen has been out sick. Mr. Andersen has been working with the Subcommittee on radio issues.
 - A. Communications Subcommittee. Commissioner Colligan gave the floor to Chief Terenzio because he has been working with the vendor regarding the radios. Commissioner Colligan reported that Chief Terenzio, Mr. Dagostino and Mr. Andersen have been working very hard on the portables on all the vehicles to start with. Chief Terenzio reported that there will be a meeting at 10 AM on Thursday, January 19, 2017, with the consultants, himself and Mr. Dagostino. The consultants did a study. The report was delayed due to FCC regulations' documentation that was needed. Working to have all intrinsically safe radios is progressing slowly as anticipated. There are six right now that are at the factory. They should be coming back to the Department at the end of this week. He reported that Mr. Andersen is in the process of getting quotes for six remodified radios. It is hoped to get all the radios out in the field inventoried, tuned and given a reassignment review. Once the report is received from Norcon, he will update the Committee. Commissioner Colligan added that once the report is received, he will schedule a meeting of the Communications Subcommittee to review the report. A second meeting will be scheduled to address questions or concerns on the report, and a third meeting will be scheduled with the consultant to address any questions or concerns.

VI. Reports of Chief Officers. Chief Terenzio discussed the situation that occurred last week on Wednesday regarding an ice rescue at Adelbrook. There was a 15 yr. old Adelbrook resident that entered into a pond on the property. Channel 3 was on scene. The whole incident took approximately 10 min. until the victim was on route to the hospital. The career staff was all in house. Two ambulance personnel grabbed the suit from the rescue truck but did not grab rope. They left in the ambulance. Rescue 1 was behind them, and arrived on scene two minutes behind. Rescue 1 had suits and backup. Firefighter Heriack was already in his mustang suit by the time he got out of the ambulance. As the Chief arrived on scene he saw Firefighter Heriack going down the embankment towards the water. There were also two police officers out on the ice. They were not shown in the Channel 3 news footage. Their rope disks were already deployed. They were thrown off the ice. The two ropes were deployed. They were not tether lines, but rope lines. Firefighter Heriack was able to crawl out in the mustang suit over the top of the ropes, and responded back that he needed ice picks to help get the person out of the water. The rescue crew along with Firefighter Barallaro and Chief Terenzio were there as backup. Firefighter McKnight was already there in his suit for backup. Firefighter Heriack was able to get the individual out and onto the water. The person was pulled out from there.

It was noted that the issue of concern was the fact that Firefighter Heriack was not tethered which is not according to what is trained. It becomes critical in fast moving water. Firefighter Heriack did not grab the rope. He did not have the rope. He was there for two minutes and made the decision to go out there. Chief Terenzio discussed with him the issue of not going out there and not being tethered. The Firefighter responded that he had 2 ropes there. As he was getting the individual out of the water, he wrapped the ropes around himself. The Chief thought the firefighter did a good job. It was reported that the victim was somewhat large, and in 4 to 5 feet of water. Two feet of that was muck. The person was also exposed to hypothermia. Any delay in rescuing would not have been a good thing.

The Chief reported that on Friday OSHA was at his office. He did not know how OSHA was aware of the incident, but they claimed they had seen the incident on TV. Deputy Chief Salonia had informed the Chief that the story was all over the internet that day, and comments were being posted. The Deputy Chief notified the Chief to make him aware of in case he had not seen the posts.

The Chief reported that he and Deputy Chief Salonia were preparing to draft an SOP for these types of situations. However, at the time that OSHA was there to investigate, Chief Terenzio was asked about an SOP, and he had to reply that there was no SOP in place for these types of situations. He informed them that they were just getting ready to write one. OSHA appreciated the honesty and asked that they be forwarded a copy of the new SOP when it is completed. They also asked if Firefighter Heriack had completed some type of training within the past year on these situations, which he had back in February of 2016. Ice training will be done with the CBA and the career staff on Monday night. The Chief also noted that 3 rope bags and new toss bags for 100 ft. of rope were purchased to be attached to the back of the mustang suits. They need to be compact so that they are easy to put on. Another SOP will be drafted regarding being within 15 feet of shore and having a personal floatation device. Commissioner Colligan suggested calling the South Fire District dive team for situations such as this. Commissioner Hamlin clarified that it is the Middletown Fire Department that has the dive team rather than South Fire District. There was a discussion regarding the area dive teams and their services. Assistant Chief Zordan reported that this type of training was instituted at training last year. It is not in writing, but was discussed. It was noted that Westfield Fire should be called because they run the same equipment as Cromwell for ice rescue. Middletown should be called for the dive team. This way the dive team is not being tied up as a backup. The Chief stated that Assistant Chief Zordan will also be assisting in drafting the SOP's. They will need to be forwarded to OSHA when finalized.

Chairman Hamlin asked the Fire Chief to relay to the staff that the incident was a job well done. Chief Terenzio reported that the Department was successful in retaining a grant from Walmart for \$2,500. A Mask Confidence Maze will be constructed with that money. With the funds left over, the Chief is planning to create a Rehab unit for extreme cold or hot temperature situations that was discussed at the last Board meeting.

The Chief also reported on the structure fire handled by Deputy Chief Salonia on Main Street. A good job was done there as well. The career staff has been doing property surveys to update information going into the CAD. They checked Knox boxes for the validity of keys provided. The car seat installation program continues to proceed in a positive direction. A \$60 donation was received from someone who had a seat installed. However, the Chief has not been making the program very public because the Cromwell Police Department is also involved in this program. He reported on 64 turnovers for the year to date. It is more than last year. Commissioner Epstein discussed the good work the Fire Department has been doing on calls. He heard on the radio the events of the ice rescue and also noted the car accident and traffic pileup on Saturday, January 14, 2017, on Route 9. Commissioner Colligan also complimented Lt. Eric Roberts and his crew from the Westfield Fire Department on his efforts during that Saturday.

Deputy Chief Salonia reported some statistics for this year. There were 2,427 total incidents for 2016. There were 741 that were situations of fire or a combination. There were 1,686 EMS related calls. Deputy Chief Salonia also reported that 4B is out of service again. A compression test is scheduled for it. He assumes there will be a cost involved. The vehicle was due to be rechassis at the 5 year mark, and this is now year 7. It has approximately 140,000 to 160,000 miles. The Deputy Chief stated that since budget preparation time is here, this vehicle should definitely be considered for rechassis. The numbers he has received are preliminary, but are around \$75,000. That did not include the whole process from chassis to chassis. It will probably run about \$100,000 to \$110,000. He added that there will still be life in the chassis if the vehicle is replaced. The Deputy Chief also stated that at a couple of Operations meetings ago, it was discussed to form the Rescue Replacement Committee. He recommends that a committee be formed. Chris Logan will be getting some figures from Eastford. President Seidl suggested getting some preliminary figures for an ambulance and a rescue vehicle. If a Rescue Truck Committee is appointed, it may be wise to explore a Rescue/Pumper type of vehicle since both types of vehicles are needed. Chief Terenzio will form an exploratory committee for a pumper and rescue truck. Commissioner Colligan asked Assistant Chief Zordan what other things he will need for training purposes. Commissioner Colligan asked for a cost estimate for the next Operations meeting.

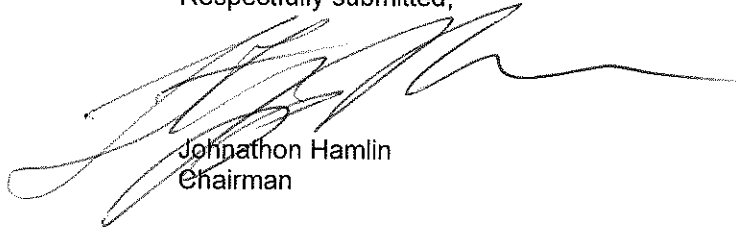
Assistant Chief Zordan reported that a Training Committee was formed. They will act as a Steering Committee. They will be foreseeing what future training needs will be based on current incidents, technology and the basics. The Assistant Chief and the training officers have been meeting as recently as yesterday. They are putting a large focus on new member training so everyone is at the same level, getting the same amount of training to perform basic and remedial tasks on scene. A training plan has been created. It is not much different from what has been done except it is now in writing. There might be a slight difference in what things are being called and what the different levels of personnel are being called. This will help in determining what level they are at in terms of tracking. There are a few changes with driver training to have more liability during an incident. They are looking at in-house training for Fire I, EMR and EMT. It is preliminary but as soon as they have some figures, a considerable cost savings should be realized. Middlesex County has increased their charge for Fire I to \$1,000 per person. They are also looking at online classes which would reduce classtime hours. It would meet the class requirements, but the Assistant Chief is not sure the Academy will allow the Department to do that. If allowed, the cost could be reduced by \$400 or \$500. Commissioner Colligan asked if the Chiefs could cost out a new member. From the time the person accepts the position to all the gear, physical, radios, uniforms, etc. Assistant

Chief EMS McIntyre was asked to do the same for EMS personnel including classes. The Chairman asked Assistant Chief Zordan how many instructors he had. There are approximately 10, but are all at different levels. There are currently 2 EMS instructors. Commissioner Epstein offered to help coordinate the EMS training at no cost to the District. The Chief plans to address some of these issues in drafting his strategic plan.

Assistant Chief EMS McIntyre reported that the EMS division is running. They are going to try to keep better track of individuals going through the process to get them up and running as soon as possible. They have used the automated compression device on Christmas Eve. It worked well but had to be returned to the manufacturer because it was being used for a trial period that is now over.

7. Apparatus Report. Deputy Chief Salonia discussed this under his report.
8. Firefighter/EMT Staffing and Hiring. This was discussed under the Chief Officers' reports.
9. Fire Department Response Capability. The Chief reported that Cromwell is just meeting the APA 1720 with a combination of career and non-career personnel for manpower per month for structure fires. They are averaging 17 people per structure fire. The Chief also discussed the Safer Grant. He is applying for it but not submitting it until he has a chance to talk to everyone about it because there are commitments involved.
10. Old Business. There was no old business to report.
11. New Business. There was no new business to report.
12. Commissioners' Comments. There were no comments to report.
13. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Colligan, seconded by Commissioner Hinnens and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Johnathon Hamlin
Chairman

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary
1-23-17