

Warren Township Volunteer Fire Department
Chief's Officers' Meeting
November 4, 2020 Minutes

Adequate notice of this meeting was given by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board and sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Courier News and Echoes Sentinel as required by the Open Public Meeting Act

Present: Chief Mitchell & Linda Palumbo

Mt. Bethel Fire Co. Mt. Horeb Fire Co. Community Fire Co.

M. Russo

D. Dante

Washington Valley Fire .

V. Truglio & C. Boschen

Police Dept

Sgt. J. Cohen

Fire Police

K. Dalton

Police Report: There have been water main breaks & stolen cars. FD has been a great asset at scenes but please remember there are dangerous situations and we want everyone to be safe.

Reports of Officers

Equipment Readiness (Vito Truglio) All Morning Pride gear has been distributed so if there's any problems, please contact Vito. WV Engine would like a cordless chainsaw for wish list.

Company Equipment Checks: SCBA flow testing proposed for next week via NJ Fire. Batteries will be changed then.

Consumables: will coordinate a list

Equipment Inventory / Asset Tagging (progress report): no report

Drills /Training (Derek Reedman):

Driver Qualification Status: no report

Fit Testing (and Train the Trainer progress): no report

Department Drill schedule: poor attendance at the last drill. Chief will put the next drill date on GroupMe as soon as he knows. Chief proposed every Fire Company should give 2 suggested drills per year to Derek to help him out. Thanks to John for running the drill.

Operations (Mark Russo): Battery packs for the air packs are on the way. Again, only put your name on the fire call report if you attend the call. Mark Russo is working on the accountability tags.

Reporting (Aram Kachidurian) October 31 is the end of the FD's fiscal year. At a minimum, a member is required to attend 3% of calls, 3 department drills & 3 company drills per year.

Vehicle response for October 47 calls, 27 false alarms, 9 delayed response calls

Engine 2 - 9 calls with 3 crew

Tower 61 - 0 calls with 0 crew

Engine 3 - 14 calls with 5 crew

Tanker 61-3 1 call with 1 crew

Engine 4 - 10 calls with 3 crew

Tanker 61-4 4 call with 4 crew

Ladder 61 - 21 calls with 12 crew

Rescue 61 - 12 calls with 4 crew

Vehicle Maintenance (Charlie Boschen): A few vehicles completed their annual maintenance. Mt Horeb's Thermal Imaging is not working.

Fire Prevention Education / Public Events (Dave Dante)

Hydrant Status Report: no report

Fire Prevention Planning: went well with the schools. Chief received multiple compliments so thank you to all members who participated.

Fire Inspector / Fire Prevention (Al Shjarback): working with restaurants regarding indoor & outdoor dining. A building going up on the WV extension. Emerson & Hillside submitted their plans. Dewey Meadow Farms building 3 full stories & hydrants are too close to the structure. Started construction on another phase (second massive building).
Hydrant testing capability equipment purchase still pending.

Radios / Communications (Brian Burkhardt)

Battery Status: delivery arrived

Company used radio purchase with Car Show funds and thanks to Brian Burkhardt & Mark Russo.

Safety (Dave Dante): no report

Traffic safety policy implemented

Chief Items: If anyone hears about a Fire Safety Officer Course, please let Dave Dante know so that he can obtain the certification

The new traffic safety policy was employed on the highway for a car fire last week and worked out well. Chief Mitchell complimented AC Dante for his hard work developing this policy. Rescue 61 vehicle is out of service due to age and a large list of chronic safety issues. Most recently, the crew cab door latch failed while responding to a call and swung open during the response. WTFD is now unable to handle extrication calls without assistance so we now call first due Mutual Aid from Berkeley Heights, Watchung or Long Hill based on location. The progressive failure of Rescue 61 has been communicated to the Township Committee liaisons and Township Administrator for seven years now and Chief Mitchell has been presenting a comprehensive apparatus replacement plan for his entire two year tenure as Chief. The Township Committee has not acted at all on the apparatus replacement plan and no efforts are underway to replace Rescue 61. The situation is dire. The Chief and the Township Committee should be meeting soon to further discuss this.

All Assistant Chiefs have been polled for input on the 2021 budget process. Mt. Horeb requested a manual gate valve during the meeting for Engine 61-102

Open Discussion:

-Approximately 20 new people completed the Fire Police training course. Once we receive the county certificates, we have to file with the state & the Chief will request a resolution for these new members to be sworn in as authorized Fire Police..

-Tyler Reedman asked to check your bottles.

-Mark Russo & Brian Burkhardt worked with the dispatchers to define call types and improve incident tracking in the CAD.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 17pm



Linda Palumbo



Chief Mitchell