



CLARENCE FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

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Board of Fire Commissioners
Nathan M. Work, Chairman
Douglas J. Larkin, Vice-Chairman
Michael Dudas
Brian Gaske
Mark Heim

Treasurer
Sandra J. Larkin

Secretary
Kristi Mora

A Work Session of Fire Commissioners' was called to order by Chairman Work on **Monday, June 1, 2020** at 18:35 hours in the large banquet room to ensure safe social distancing practices were followed.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Dudas, Heim, Larkin, and Work, Chief Brett Hanford, Assistant Chief Ruth Rider-Work

Absent: Commissioner Gaske, Secretary Mora, Treasurer Larkin

Guests: None

A discussion ensued regarding the phased reopening of the building and facility. Based on the recent updates from Governor Cuomo, and in conjunction with the reopening of WNY, the Board agreed to move to Phase 2 of the firehall reopening plan. Commissioner Work will communicate this update with the membership tomorrow.

Commissioner Work updated the Board on various trainings that were postponed, cancelled, and/or rescheduled, i.e. Pinsky Law Conference, FDIC, & the AFDSNY Legislative & Leadership Summit. The Pinsky Law Conference has been rescheduled for July 9-12, 2020, and the associated reservations, registrations, and accommodations have been adjusted accordingly. The FDIC conference was ultimately cancelled and Commissioner Work is trying to secure refunds from the airlines. The AFDSNY Conference is scheduled for October 1-3, 2020 in Niagara Falls, New York and it looks to be promising and worthwhile.

Commissioner Work notified the Board that the Ladder Truck would be going out of the district on Friday at the request of the Akron Fire Chief to assist with a PR event at the Akron High School. There were no objections to the truck being taken out of the district for this purpose.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Rule & Regulation: Article VII: Operators & Drivers of Fire District Vehicles. Commissioner Work provided some historical perspective on the evolution of this rule and regulation and Chief Hanford shared his opinions and thoughts of what he would like to see included with any such revisions. The commissioners recognize that the current rule and regulation is ambiguous; the driver list has not been updated and posted regularly; and that the 3 year EVOC provision is unnecessary and places an undue burden on our firefighters who are cleared to drive apparatus. After the lengthy discussion, Commissioner Work asked some clarifying questions and took notes in order to make revisions to the document for the Board to review and approve at a future meeting.

Chief Hanford addressed the Board and shared a concern that he has regarding the growing use of social media and some recent posts that could be considered disparaging, which were made by a non-firefighter

family member. Chief Hanford shared a sample policy that he obtained from Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company. Commissioner Work shared the District's current Social Media Policy. A lengthy discussion ensued with notes being taken. Chief Hanford is going to merge aspects of both of the policies into one document that he will share with the Board for its future consideration.

With the growing civil unrest and recent attacks on first responders, Commissioner Work asked the Board to consider removing the restriction on possessing a firearm on district property, on fire district apparatus, and while conducting fire district business for all individuals who are licensed to possess and carry a firearm, i.e. *"No Fire Company member, Fire District Commissioner, Fire District employee or contractor shall possess a firearm or weapon while on Fire District property, on Fire District apparatus, or while on Fire District business."* He shared several policies and practices from neighboring departments that have allowed members to carry firearms. The Board seems to be receptive to future discussions in this regard.

MOTION by Work, seconded by Dudas to temporarily suspend Article 1: General Rules, clause number nine for Chief Brett Hanford and Assistant Chief Ruth Rider-Work effective immediately and until further notice, Carried.

MOTION by Work, seconded by Larkin, to adjourn the work session meeting at 9:00 PM, Carried.

All motions were unanimously carried unless otherwise noted.

Attest,

Nathan M. Work, Board Chairman

cc: Chief, Commissioners, Day Room Bulletin Board, Website