**Town of Goshen-Board of Fire Commissioners**

**Regular Meeting-Via Zoom**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2020 7:00PM**

**Present:** Commissioners William Lane, Donald Sage, Tony Damiani

**Excused**: Alternate Melissa Foster

**Others**: Chief Barry Hall

**Call Meeting to Order:** William Lane called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**Reading of the Minutes**: The Commissioners read the minutes from the June 3, 2020 meeting

**IN A MOTION** made by Don Sage and seconded by Tony Damiani it was **VOTED** to accept the minutes of the June 3, 2020 meeting with one correction noted. Under Old Business, second sentence, “There are there are” should read “There are”. Motion carried.

**Fire Chief’s report**: The Company responded to 16 calls in June. 10 EMS, 1 Dive team to Sherman, and 5 fire. It has been a slow month for calls.

An update on the Covid-19 virus; in Town there are currently no new positive cases reported in almost 2 weeks. There is also a small amount of cases left in the local hospitals.

PPE: Barry continues to go to the Goshen Fair Grounds to pick up PPE for the Town to distribute and Erin goes to Bethlehem to pick up PPE to supply our EMS service. We are stockpiling at this point so that we are prepared if there is a sudden increase in cases again.

Barry and Bill Lane talked about the LEMSP (Local Emergency Medical Service Plan). This is a plan that Bob Valentine had asked Bill Lane and Barry Hall to help with a couple years ago for the State. The State is now asking for amendments to plan. The plan is for the Town not exclusively for the Fire Company and is a State mandated plan. Barry and Bill were originally involved to help compile the information for the fire protection and rescue services and all the mutual aide agreements with surrounding towns that are covered in the plan.

At the Board of Finance meeting in June, the First Selectman mentioned that they are starting to get together all the Covid related expenses because they are going to try to get reimbursement of up to 75% from FEMA or the State of CT. Because the Company is volunteer, Bill asked Barry if man hours could be counted as an expense. Don Sage mentioned there may be a way to compute volunteer man hours. Barry said they may compute truck hours related to Covid. The LCD report could help with reporting man hours and Erin documented ambulance clean up after every call as Covid and notated items purchased for the Protection and Rescue services as Covid as it applied.

IN A MOTION by Tony Damiani and seconded by Don Sage it was VOTED to accept the Chief’s report. Motion carries.

**Correspondence**: None

**Board of Fire Commissioners**

**July 1, 2020**

**Page 2 of 2**

**Fire Marshall Report:**  The May and June reports were read into record by the clerk.

**IN** **A** **MOTION** made by Don Sage and seconded by Tony Damiani, it was **VOTED** to accept the May 2020 and June 2020 reports as read. Motion carries.

**Bills:** All qualifying bills and vouchers were reviewed on report provided by the Clerk.

**IN A MOTION** made by Don Sage and seconded by Tony Daminai, it was **VOTED** to accept and pay all bills as submitted on the report. Motion carries. The Board unanimously approved all the bills listed and in lieu of the old practice of signing each bill as an expression of approval, the verbal approval is a sign of approval.

**Old Business:**  Protection and Rescue budgets from the Fiscal office were included in the meeting for review. The Board of Selectmen has extended the budget freeze to 1st week of August in a concern over the lag of tax revenue that will be collected due to extension of the tax payment deadline. The BOF and BOS is waiting to see how robust the tax revenue will be before the freeze is released. Barry noted that some line items have gone over but there are others that have not. These numbers don’t necessarily reflect a true working budget due to the freeze and not being able to purchase items that would normally be purchased for operations.

**New Business**: Barry discussed the Company resuming drills and meetings in person and having online drills available. Social distancing and masks have been utilized. Barry noted that if the Commission is comfortable, the BOFC meetings could resume in person in the drill hall to provide social distancing. The meeting would need to be presented on Zoom as well for public to be able to attend.

**Other Business to Come Before the Board**: Don Sage asked about the PPE supplies being available through distributors/suppliers and shortages. Barry noted that the Company has been relying on the State, through the distribution on Thursdays and Fridays, for PPE. The State is asking that Companies look into getting PPE supplies from the supply companies again. There are some items that are not available still, or have order restrictions/requirements, such as purchase history of that item. Erin generally contacts the sales representative from the medical supply companies if such an item is needed. Barry also mentioned that some sort of containers or cabinets need to be purchased to store all the PPE that has been picked up so that it does not become compromised being stored in the attic, with the extreme changes in temperature, and become unuseable.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Reilly

Commission Clerk