

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ---REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2017

Chairman Cross called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Present: Commissioners Peter Cross, Laura Cronin, Demetrius Atsalis, Dennis Sullivan, Victor Skende and Chief Peter Burke.

1. MINUTES: The minutes of June 8, June 22, July 5, July 12 and July 27, 2017 were unanimously accepted as presented.
2. CORRESPONDENCE: None
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
4. STREET LIGHTS: No new requests. Atsalis has determined that the request for light on 131 Old Craigville Road was not warranted. He has sent letter to Mrs. Rodrigues.
5. OLD BUSINESS: The Clerk/Treasurer had prepared a draft response to Peter Campbell's letter questioning the Auditors Report for last fiscal year. After discussion Cronin moved that the response be sent to Campbell. Seconded by Skende. Sullivan will meet with the Clerk/Treasurer to discuss sending a letter to Campbell. Cronin suggested that Campbell be offered an opportunity to meet if he has additional questions.
6. NEW BUSINESS: Financial Report and Bond Schedule: Cross reported on conference held with Lynne Foster of UniBank Financial Advisory Services, Chief Burke and Clerk/Treasurer LaFleur. Participating by phone were Anthony Polanco of Standard & Poor and Bill Fraher, CPA, BF Auditing. Cross recounted the kind of questions raised by Polanco. Initially we will bond 9 million dollars. Because our rating is very good, our bond issue is desirable. We should receive an estimated \$400,000 premium. That \$400,000 can be used to reduce the cost of the second bond. There was discussion with S&P representative about our free cash and the amount held in reserve fund. Cross has invited Foster to attend a Board meeting to discuss placing more free cash in reserve fund.

A Special Meeting will be called for September 12 at 5pm to open bids and issue the bonds.

7. Items not reasonably anticipated. None
8. CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief reported that there are three bills incurred in FY17 that were not encumbered before the end of the fiscal year. FY18 appropriations cannot be used to pay these invoices totaling \$11,851.15, (\$7,401.00 to General Dynamics, \$3,015.75 to CyberComm and \$4,434.40 to Puritan Clothing). Chief requested authorization to use the Rescue Fund to pay these bills. There was a good deal of discussion about the Rescue Fund, its intended use and the efficacy of using it for this purpose. Cronin expressed her concern that we will be using donations to the department for purposes that donors may not have intended. She felt that we would be using donations intended for the benefit of FFs to fund operating expenses. Sullivan moved that we authorize the Chief to use of Rescue Funds for

payment of the outstanding FY17 bills. Seconded by Skende. There was consensus that this should not become precedent. The motion passed on a 4 to 1 vote. Cronin voted in the negative.

Cronin made a motion that we pay back the Rescue Fund from our Commission Expense line item (FY18). Seconded by Atsalis. Sullivan questioned whether it would be legal to pay District funds into a semi-private fund. The question was called. The motion failed to pass on a 4 to 1 vote. Cronin voted in the affirmative.

The Chief identified problem with the current procurement policy. He distributed an interim procurement policy which will be revised when a formalized procurement system is in place. Chief said that there are a few challenges with individual line items in the budget which will require monitoring. There is no official word on status of the SCBA grant application and he is looking into feasibility of lease/purchase.

The Chief extended an invitation to all to attend the 9/11 Commemoration to be held at the station on the morning of September 11th.

Personnel matters: Application period has been opened to fill pending FF vacancies. Application period has been opened for the FPO position. FF Colton will officially retire on August 19th. Dan Morizio, currently attending Fire Academy, will be here during MFA break (September 11-15). Morizio is scheduled to graduate on September 29th. September 21st will be Lt. Cosmo's last day. Stop by (2 to 6pm) to celebrate his retirement. The Department has set October 8th as a tentative date for an Awards Ceremony.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: Nathaniel Munafo announced that the first meeting of the By Law Committee is set for September 13th at 6pm. Mike Dalmau stated that, in conjunction with the Day of Recognition, the Union and Department will be setting a date for photos of department and individuals including Commissioner. Dalmau is looking into obtaining a backdrop with department badge etc. that can be used for photos, presentations, and events.

ADJOURN: Sullivan moved adjournment. Seconded by Atsalis.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Skende
Clerk