

060

**The Board of Fire Commissioners
Portsmouth Fire Department**

Fire Station 2
George Pierce Training Room
June 8, 2021

Portsmouth, NH
1730 hours

I. Call to Order:

Chairwoman Matthes called the meeting to order at 1730 hours.

Motion, to enter into Non-public session at 1730 hours in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (a), promotion(s), was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Chairwoman Matthes and passed unanimously.

Motion, to close and come out of Non-public session at 1803 hours and reconvene regular scheduled meeting, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

Meeting reconvened at 1805 hours.

II. Pledge of Allegiance with Attendance:

Chairwoman Matthes led the pledge of allegiance.

Present were Commissioners: Jennifer Matthes, Richard Gamester and Michael Hughes; Fire Chief Todd Germain, Assistant Fire Chief William McQuillen, Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Howe, Executive Assistant Tracy Freeman, Lieutenant Duncan Regonini, Lieutenant Garrett Miller, and Firefighters: Scott L Young, John Sylvester, Adam Lamonica, Ezekiel Tappin and Bruce Gosselin.

III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2021, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment Session: None.

V. Presentations of Written Communications:

Chief Germain read resignation letter from Firefighter Connor O'Brien. Commissioner Gamester appreciated his kind words and wishes him well in his return to Goffstown Fire.

Motion, to accept Connor O'Brien's resignation letter with regret, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Chairwoman Matthes and passed unanimously.

VI. Recognition of Groups or Individuals: None.

VII. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Commissioner Gamester motioned to discuss Chief's reports 21-055 through 21-058. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes.

Chief Germain reviewed reports with the Commission.

Report (055), 2021 Response Report with Service Activity and Safety message for May 2021. The report shows the department responding to a total of 392 calls for the month: 110 Fire Calls and 282 Ambulance Calls. Chief noted that based on the number of calls last year at this time, we are up approximately 26%. Total year to date shows the department responding to 1870 calls: 559 fire and related service calls and 1311 ambulance service calls. Chief spoke briefly about some of the activity for the month noting a brush fire at 225 Borthwick Ave. A motor vehicle accident on the Spaulding Turnpike NB. Companies arrived to find a 6 vehicle MVA with one patient transported to PRH and two to WDH. Also noted was a motorcycle accident at Middle and Aldrich where a motorcycle had struck the rear of a parked car. Both riders of the motorcycle sustained serious injuries and were transported to PRH in Trauma Alert Status. The safety message was on how to reduce bark mulch fires. The Service Activity and Safety Message report was submitted to the Portsmouth Herald for publication in local newspapers. Report (056), Fire and EMS Call Summary Report, shows the department responded to 110 fire calls for the month of May. EMS activity was 282 with the top three responses being alcohol abuse and effects, abdominal pain/problems and psychiatric/behavioral problems. Chief noted that there has been an uptick in overdose calls based on findings which consists of drugs that contains a mix with fentanyl. There were 6 calls for drug overdose/abuse and 54 non-transports. Report (057), FY21 Budget, Chief Germain reviewed the budget with the Commission and noted he still anticipates a surplus. We are almost at the end but we are still monitoring it closely. We have submitted purchase orders to have the carpets cleaned at all three stations and replacement of some equipment shortages. Report (058), Overtime Analysis, provided a breakdown of how overtime was used in the month of May along with a summary of what was charged to OT-Recall for the month. Also noted was the shift coverage for COVID related impacts and billable amounts for Public Health and State POD Vaccination Clinics that our department assisted with for the month of May. Our personnel worked over 1,400 hours this month assisting in vaccine clinics.

Motion, to accept Chief's Reports 21-055 through 21-058, was made by Commissioner Gamester. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

B. Staff Reports:

Assistant Chief reported on training and operations happening within the department noting training with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard using their simulator for live fire training is still on going, training on the new Fastboards, which arrived last week, EOC upgrade project still coming along which we are now programming equipment for the EOC, beginning preparations for the Seabrook drills which will take place later this year which includes plan reviews

to be sure we are up to date in those as well. Twenty-two candidates will be participated in the firefighter oral board, which is scheduled for next week. City's HR department does a great job in advertising making sure notifications go beyond the local region. We have applicants who are local and also from the Carolinas and Florida out to Texas. Advertising beyond the local catchment area increases our pool of candidates. Some candidates will participate in the oral board via Zoom since they are not local.

Deputy Chief Howe reported on Prevention noting several projects happening within the city and very busy with construction projects. City's Inspection department will be hiring another inspector so that will help with the overflow. Health department lifted all restrictions on indoor and outdoor seating. Should be a busy summer with restaurants. Fire Prevention Officers Wheeler and Putney will be attending CPE (Certified Plans Examiner) training at the end of the month. Looking at exploring repercussions for repeat offenders of life safety code violations. Criminal citations can be done but are a lengthy process and courts are backed up. Looking into local citations and increasing the fines to change behaviors. Commission would need to make the request for a change to the ordinances to allow for this increase in penalties. Commissioner Gamester inquired about building in written warnings as well into the ordinances. Deputy Howe noted that right now the warnings are done primarily during building inspections where notes are made based on what is found. If a change is made in ordinance, the City Council would need to have final approval. Deputy Howe to forward paperwork regarding the proposed changes and penalties being considered to the Commission for review.

VIII. Old Business:

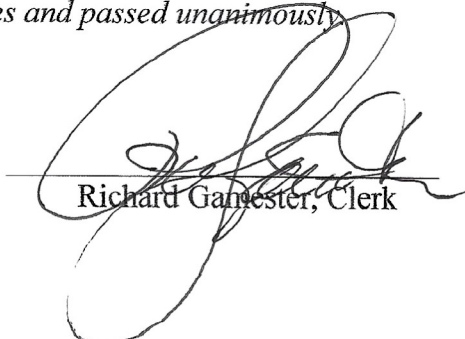
Chief Germain updated the Commission on COVID operations and vaccine clinics and provided a summary of what has been billed out to the State through May. Members continue to staff fixed sites around the state but it is anticipated that these fixed sites will end at the end of this month. Chief thanked the staff for assisting him in this process.

Chief Germain updated the Commission on the City's mask mandate, which was lifted last night, and his memo addressing the general orders put in place when COVID began, and it now being rescinded and operations of the department going back to pre-COVID conditions.

IX. New Business: None.

X. Adjournment:

Motion, to adjourn at 1835hours, was made by Chairwoman Matthes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.


Richard Gamester, Clerk