APPROVED: 3/06/2013

CITY OF ALBANY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Fire Station 13
Wednesday, February 6, 2013
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commission members present: Larry Nelson, Terry Virnig, Nicholas Fowler, Cynthia Greene, Loyd Henion

Commission members absent: Ray Lusk, Mike Martin

Staff present: John Bradner, Fire Chief; Meaza Ridley, Administrative Assistant I

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Virnig called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Larry Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2012, meeting; Nicholas Fowler seconded the motion; and the minutes were approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Update – Chief Bradner

Chief Bradner updated the commission on the new recruits' progress. The recruits completed their Academy and began working at the end of 2012. Half of them are finished with the FTO program and are at full function while the other half are now in the FTO program. Having the new recruits allows for increased staffing at Station 14 and on Truck 13.

Chief Bradner mentioned the National Fire Standards recommends 15 firefighters on scene within 8 minutes for a working structure fire. Having these new recruits will make it easier to meet these standards. There is also an OSHA rule of two in, two out ~~rule~~ for rescue. You must have two people outside for the two rescuers going in to rescue unless an obvious rescue can be seen. Chief Bradner used the January 12, 2013, fire as an example.

Chief Bradner distributed copies of the AFD Annual Fire Report; the first one in 17 years. When discussing the page with awards and recognition, Nick Fowler asked if recipients received a special badge for their award. Chief Bradner said they do receive a special colored bar for their Class A uniform.

During the discussion of Medicare billing versus collection, the need for this information to be placed in front of legislators was mentioned. Loyd and Nick offered to help make that happen.

It was asked if all firefighters are EMTs. Chief Bradner explained that all firefighters are at least an EMT Basic, most are Paramedics. The new hires are all Paramedics.

There was a question about the difference between a public assist call and general trauma. The Chief explained a public assist call would be similar to a cat stuck in a tree type of call whereas general trauma would be similar to someone who was cut using power tools in their yard.

The equipment replacement information prompted a discussion of cuts made to equipment replacement funding in order to save jobs. With the pending purchase of the truck company,

made possible only by Albany Rural Fire District offering to pay half the cost, the equipment replacement fund stands basically unfunded for future needs. The fire department applied for a grant to purchase a new brush rig and haven't heard back yet. Soon there will be ambulances and other equipment needing replacement. The lifespan of fire hoses was discussed as well as the upcoming need for new turnout gear.

The Commission commended the Chief for the annual report and asked if there were any comments regarding specific direction from City Council after he presented it to them. The Chief answered there were none at the time of presentation. Nick Fowler asked what happens now? The Chief says it's important to keep the report information and numbers in front of the Council as much as possible. The Chief mentioned that he has received good support from City Council.

Chair Virnig suggested the Commission needs to communicate with City Council; possibly at a Work Session.

There was a discussion about Station 11 and the challenges it faces as well as some historical information about the station that Chief Bradner discovered at the museum. Chair Virnig expressed concern about the equipment replacement funds and needs, and the Commission discussed their next steps. It was decided the April meeting would be used to determine a course of action.

Loyd asked Chief Bradner what pains the most of the challenges for Fire and the Chief responded the six positions that are funded by the grant through October 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business

NEW BUSINESS

Elect Officers

Terry Virnig nominated Cynthia Greene for Chairperson; Larry Nelson seconds; all in favor.
Terry Virnig nominated Larry Nelson for Vice Chairperson; everyone seconds; all in favor.

Select candidate for Police Chief Selection Group

The City Manager, Wes Hare, requested a member of the Public Safety Commission be selected for the Police Chief Selection Group. There was a discussion including information given by email from the two members not present at the meeting. Larry Nelson made the motion for Loyd Henion to attend, after he indicated an interest in participating. Terry Virnig seconded the motion. Terry explained how the process went when he was involved in the selection of Police Chief Boyd.

GOOD OF ORDER

None

NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at Station 14.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED: 3/06/2013

Submitted by,

Meaza Ridley
Administrative Assistant I