

Town of East Windsor
Broad Brook Fire Department Commission
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 18, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Broad Brook Fire Station
Senior Center Meeting Room
125 Main Street, Broad Brook, CT. 06016
(In-person)

AND

Meeting held via ZOOM Teleconference
Meeting ID: 687 566 5576
Passcode: Fire39BB

REVISED Meeting Minutes
Please see revisions to Item 9 –
Update on Status of Vehicle Replacement

**** These Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting****

Board of Commissioners:

John (Jay) Madigan, Regular Member/Chairman
Nicholas Macsata, Regular Member/Vice Chairman
Regular Commissioners: Gil Hayes, William Towers, Jr., Ron Masters
Alternate Commissioners: Bill Loos, Cal Myers

GUESTS/SPEAKERS in person: Broad Brook Fire Department Board of Directors

Firefighter Jason Piorek hosted the Meeting. **Broad Brook Fire Department Commissioners:** Jay Madigan (Chairman), Nick Macsata (Vice Chairman), Gil Hayes, William Towers, Jr., Bill Loos, Ron Masters, Cal Myers; **Broad Brook Fire Department:** Tom Arcari, Chief, Gerald Bancroft, Assistant Chief, Jason Piorek, (Firefighter); **Town Fire Marshal:** Rick Austin.

GUESTS/SPEAKERS signing in to the meeting remotely: Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary.

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BROAD BROOK FIRE COMMISSION
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*REVISED MEETING MINUTES***

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Madigan called the September 18, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Broad Brook Fire Commission to Order at 7:00 p.m. The Meeting is being held in the Senior Center Meeting Room above the Broad Brook Fire station located at 125 Main Street, Broad Brook, CT., and is being held via teleconference as well.

2. ROLL CALL:

Chairman Madigan noted the Commission has established a quorum with 7 members present. Chairman Madigan, Vice Chairman Macsata, Commissioner Hayes, Commissioner Loos, Commissioner Masters, Commissioner Myers, and Commissioner Towers were present at the Fire Station

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A. August 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Chairman Madigan called for a motion of approval.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2023 as presented.

Loos moved/Towers seconded/DISCUSSION: None

**VOTE: In Favor: Madigan/Macsata/Hayes/Loos/
Masters/Myers/Towers
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

4. NO AGENDA ITEM LISTED IN ERROR:

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chairman Madigan announced this opportunity for the public to offer comments or raise questions. No one requested to speak.

6. COMMUNICATIONS – Discussion regarding updating Ordinance establishing the Town of East Windsor Broad Brook Fire Department:

Chairman Madigan noted this Agenda item had been tabled from the previous month, he opened discussion this evening.

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Vice Chairman Macsata suggested the Commissioners need to review the process charged to the Commissioners, and suggest revisions to the Board of Selectmen. He suggested the actions of the Commissioners are provided in the budget, it doesn't make sense for the Commission to ask for permission to approve budgetary issues from the Board of Selectmen; the Commissioners should be able to approve anything encumbered in the Commission's budget. Vice Chairman Macsata suggested this Commission contracts for fire services for the Town, the Commission should be able to approve its expenditures without approval from the Board of Selectman. Vice Chairman Macsata suggested the charge of the Ordinance needs to be reviewed, revision of the Ordinance may need to be approved via a Town Meeting.

Chairman Madigan will discuss the process with First Selectman Bowsza and report back to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

7. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Chairman Madigan reported that he, Vice Chairman Macsata, and Assistant Chief Bancroft recently appeared before the Board of Selectmen to present information regarding the Feasibility Study RFPs and request the First Selectman's authorization regarding signing the contract. The Board of Selectmen approved First Selectman Bowsza's authorization to sign the contract with H2M as recommended by the Commissioners.

8. REPORT FROM CHIEF ARCARI:

Chief Arcari reported on the following:

- The Department responded to 66 calls during the month of August.
- The Fire Police filed for a \$5,000.00 grant for fire equipment.
- Regarding the work of the Connecticut Water Company, they will not move fire hydrants unless they are within 150 feet of the property line. Existing hydrants will be kept in their present locations, except for the hydrant on Church Street, which will be moved to the corner of Main Street and the Broad Brook Library.

9. UPDATE ON STATUS OF VEHICLE REPLACEMENT:

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Chief Arcari reported, members of the Fire Department continue to communicate with the representatives of the Seagraves Corporation. On August 14, 2023 Seagraves sent a letter to the Department stating there is an increase in the cost to build the new truck of \$136,456, this was due to increase in materials, labor and freight charges. Chairman Madigan and Chief Arcari had a meeting with the Seagrave CEO and were able to negotiate the increase to \$130,000 (saving \$6,456) along with Seagrave adding two additional years of warranty service at no additional charge. The warranty has a value of \$19,000 per year. Total savings of the negotiation is \$44,456.

Discussion followed regarding review of the contract originally signed, and its effect on the price of the vehicle. Vice Chairman Macsata questioned the need to have the increased price approved via Town Meeting. Assistant Chief Bancroft suggested that some of the presentation is educating the public regarding Seagraves recommendations.

MOTION: To APPROVE the additional payment to Seagraves based on the August letter of advisement.

Loos moved/Macsata seconded/DISCUSSION: None

**VOTE: In Favor: Madigan/Macsata/Hayes/Loos/Masters/Myers/Towers
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

10. REPORT FROM FIRE MARSHAL AUSTIN:

Fire Marshall Austin gave the following report:

- **88 Main Street, Broad Brook, - the Manor House:** Fire Marshal Austin reported the property has a new owner, work is being done in this building which is not being done properly, The main electrical panel has been built into the ceiling without access, sheetrock has been installed incorrectly, the roof needs to be replaced; the work appears to have been done without permits. When Fire Marshal Austin brought in the Building Official he was appalled at the work. The outside metal stairway, which is the main entrance to the building, is pulling away from the building. The owner has been advised to relocate the existing tenants, which he is working on. When Fire Marshal Austin and the Building Official visited the building they sent the workers home.
- **24 Depot Street – private residence (across from Merlot):** Fire Marshal Austin reported a contractor has replaced interior doors with outside doors. Fire Marshal Austin reiterated he has no teeth to make contractors fix work being done incorrectly.

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Discussion followed, Vice Chairman Macsata suggested if the work involves a life safety issue Fire Marshal Austin should seek the assistance of the Building Official. He suggested the Commission may be able to empower Fire Marshal Austin under the Connecticut General Statutes, and he should be able to fine the offending property owner. Assistant Chief Bancroft agreed, noting if relocation costs are the responsibility of the Town they need to find the money. Chairman Madigan suggested Fire Marshal Austin should have the ability, perhaps with the assistance of the Building Official, to issue a Cease & Desist Order with associated fines. Vice Chairman Macsata suggested the taxpayers pay for fire services through the Fire Department, when owners or contractors don't, or won't, remedy the conditions they should be fined. Commissioner Towers agreed as well. Assistant Fire Chief Bancroft agreed, noting Fire personnel are dealing with life safety issues.

11. STATUS OF TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BROAD BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022 – 2023 BUDGET:

Chief Arcari reported the last years 22-23 budget balance that was not spent is \$82,280.22, which is comprised of a balance of approximately \$62,999.22 in FMO line and PT Salary plus \$19,281.00 acquired in tax payments and other budgetary sources.

Chief Arcari noted the Department has received a best practices document from the State of CT regarding information related to concerns for cancer acquired through fire services. Chief Arcari stated that we can either adopt the plan we received or use it as a guideline in creating our own Dept. Policy. Vice Chairman Macsata requested this information should be forwarded to the Selectman's Office as it demonstrates actions taken by the Commissioners on behalf of fire staff as well as keeping them apprised of the challenges we face daily now and going forward.

12. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Chairman Madigan called for comments from the Commissioners, no one offered any additional information.

13. ACTIONS REQUIRED TO MOVE FORWARD

Chairman Madigan called for actions to move forward, no one raised any issues.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 (6)(B) – pending negotiations:

Chairman Madigan noted there will not be an EXECUTIVE SESSION this evening.

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15. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this meeting at 7:45 p.m

Macsata moved/Loos seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Madigan/Macsata/Hayes/Loos/Masters/Myers/Tower
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

Respectfully submitted:

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary for
The Town of East Windsor Broad Brook Fire Department Commission