

Centerville-Osterville Marstons Mills Fire Department
Fire Commissioners' Meeting
February 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: This meeting will come to order at 1701 and will be recorded. We will begin our meeting with public comment. If you wish to provide public comment, please raise your hand, and wait to be called on by the chair. Speakers should identify themselves when called on to speak. Each speaker may have a minimum of three minutes. To be complaint with the Open Meeting Law, the board may choose not to engage in discussion on a particular comment but may wish to include the topic on a future agenda. The Board of Fire Commissioners strives to maintain an orderly and peaceable public meeting environment.

Fire Commissioners Macallister, Riley, and Brown were in attendance along with Chief Eldridge, Deputy Hill, Deputy Rogers, and N. Kennedy.

Roll call was taken. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2025, meeting.

There were no ambulance waivers.

CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONNEL

Z. Hunter is still out with a shoulder injury. Continuing with physical therapy.

E. Sabatinelli has been cleared by his doctor to return to work starting March 1st.

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention continued this month with routine inspections both commercial and residential. Resale/Transfer inspections were up for the month.

Both FPO's attended the January FPAM meeting in Auburn, this month's topic was Introduction to Sprinklers and standpipes focusing on multi story buildings taught by members of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. The FPO's also attended the Cape & Islands Fire Prevention Association meeting, which was held at Cape Cod Tech in Harwich. The topic also was sprinkler systems how they operate, and what we should be looking for during an inspection and if there is an activation of the system. The instructors are two technicians from Fire Equipment Inc.

Continued the junior firefighter program at Centerville Elementary and West Villages with the topic being home escape plans to include two ways out and a safe meeting place. We gave them a fun project to do at home. They had to draw their house, show the locations of all their Smoke/CO alarms and draw two ways out of every room and end up at the safe meeting place that they chose. We told them that they can include everyone who lives in their house. They will give us their completed assignments when we see them in February.

We also taught fire and life safety to a small group of students (approx. 12) who are in the ILC program at Centerville Elementary. We went twice in Jan for 30 minutes at a time and will do one more visit to the school in February, they will come to HQ for their final visit to see the trucks and equipment. We are hoping to continue teaching in this class year after year. **Deputy Hill – this is the first year we have taught to this class. It was well received.**

This past month a total of (63) permits were issued by the Fire Prevention Office while collecting (\$1,535) in permit fees. Resale inspections of homes were the least common type of permit (29) and inspection (34). Overall Fire Prevention completed (98) inspections and/or activities, (35) of which were part of our Community Outreach “Senior Safe” campaign.

EMS

Training with each group on the use of I-Gel Supraglottic Airway. These new devices will replace the KING Airway currently in use by COMM. These provide a backup airway to patients when intubation attempts fail. Thank you to Lt. Malone for his assistance.

COMM Paramedics have been testing new video Laryngoscopes in the lab setting. The goal is to replace the Air-Traq cameras currently in use with a new more modern device.

Recertification for EMT’s and Paramedics continues for those expiring on April 1, 2025.

All EMS operations and equipment continue to operate without issues. Continually addressing equipment and training needs for the department.

DISPATCH

Call volume for January was up slightly compared to the same month last year with 414 runs, an increase of 8. COMM also dispatched 95 calls for Cotuit Fire in January, an increase of 40 compared to last January.

911 calls accounted for about 60% of our call volume in January. Alarm companies reported 12 percent of the calls and 10 percent were direct reports from Barnstable Police.

Cyber Com and Prodigy were on site February 19th to complete installation of the new dispatch console and programming the Zetron system. Everything to be completed by the end of February. **Chief Eldridge – currently still working on the furniture console and radios.**

Chief Eldridge – The department will be letting Local 1 know that we are changing their schedule and taking away the 24-hour shifts and they will be going to (2) 10-hour day shifts and (2) 14-hour night shifts. We need to give them 30 days’ notice per the contract.

EQUIPMENT

Light tower – Changed engine oil and replaced fuel filter. Checked wheel bearings.

C323 – Service and undercoat. Replaced faulty strobe light.

A324 – Check engine light on due to exhaust system. Sent to Allegiance to diagnose and repair.

A325 – Found faulty suspension pump, ordered new pump. Changed engine oil and filters. Replaced the driver’s seat due to rip and foam failing.

A326 – Cleared exhaust DFP code. Tightened latch on side compartment door and adjusted latch cable. Welded a bracket on the back of sidestep.

A327 – Engine light on, tested and found low coolant. Added coolant and tested.

E303 – Faulty steamer intake valve. Installed spare valve continues to leak. Having faulty valve rebuilt. Broken bolt on vent saw, installed new grip insert for broken bolt.

M310 – Assisted Safe Boat International with installation of sticker and bow cover. Completed punch list of maintenance. Awaiting parts from Safe Boat International once installed boat will be taken to Crosby Yacht for bottom of boat sand blasted and painted.

TRAINING

The February monthly fire training includes annual Repetitive Motion Injuries and Ergonomics Policy review, completion of practical ice rescue evolutions, and a Round Table fireground discussion on a structure fire in a Class V residence. The monthly Hands-on Training covers the principles of primary search and rescue operations. The department obtained permission to practice search and rescue operations in an acquired structure which was completed February 11th-16th. Search and rescue evolutions and skills were significantly enhanced while training in a partially furnished acquired structure while wearing full protective equipment in a limited visibility environment.

February monthly EMS training for BLS/ALS providers includes introduction and Hands-on Training with the I-Gel Supraglottic airway adjunct presented by Lt Malone. M&M Rounds were also attended via CCH and Falmouth Hospitals.

Eight department members also completed the Fire Officer I class presented by the Massachusetts Fire Academy which began in January. **Chief Eldridge – 5-week program that COMM hosted at the Mashpee Library.**

OPERATIONS

Marine Division

Marine 310 out of the water and out of service. Safe Boat International has completed the collar refit the boat looks new with its new bow cover and lettering. The hull is being prepared for recoating at Crosby Yacht with soda blasting, etching, then new coats of primer and paint. Following that, Mechanic Randall has a small punch list to complete before launch. **Chief Eldridge – Boat is currently at Station 3.**

Dive Team

The Dive Team conducted training in January at Middle Pond. The focus of the training was ice diving and recovery of a submerged person with an overhead environment.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ongoing snow and ice clean up after storms.

Station 1 – Replaced lights in kitchen, hallway, gym, and prudential office. Repaired hinges on apparatus bay floor exit to recall parking. Assisted group 3 with renovations to day room.

Station 2 – Repaired cabinet hinges and draws in kitchen area.

Station 3 – Installed new ballasts and bulbs in apparatus bay and office.

BUDGET

See attached budget sheet. **Chief Eldridge – 64.5% through the fiscal year and on track as to where we should be with the budget.**

PLANNING

Deputy Hill – Budget was presented at the last Prudential meeting. There are several projects that will be starting. The fuel pumps out back need to be replaced. Along with painting the inside of station 1. There are preliminary discussions about building two new developments in Centerville which if they go through will impact on our department, especially station 1. Captain Morrison has been offered the Deputy Chief position at West Barnstable Fire Department.

COMMITTEES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (IT)

Chief Eldridge – R. Sargent has been updating mobile computers and helping with the dispatch console.

MISCELLANEOUS

Change of Command Ceremony Friday February 28th at 10:00am.

Chief Eldridge – This is my last meeting, and I would like to thank everyone in this room, and he has truly enjoyed his time working for COMM Fire.

Chairman Macallister – From everyone at COMM Fire we thank you for all that you have done. You go above and beyond and will be irreplaceable.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 1736. Next meeting is March 17th at 5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Doug Brown, Clerk