

Centerville-Osterville Marstons Mills Fire Department
Fire Commissioners' Meeting
January 27, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: This meeting will come to order at 1700 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, N. Kennedy, T. Laffey (Local 2346).

Roll call was taken. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2024, meeting.

There were no ambulance waivers.

CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONNEL

Z. Hunter is out with a shoulder injury. Has a follow up appointment at the end of January. **Chief Eldridge – currently in physical therapy.**

E. Sabatinelli is out due to a non-work-related injury. Hoping to return in February. **Chief Eldridge – coming along ok.**

FIRE PREVENTION

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

Our "Senior Safe" smoke installation campaign continued this month with help from our Community Outreach Team. These visits are conducted on Saturdays from 0900-1200 and are eligible to residents 65+.

Both FPO's attended the December FPAM meeting in Auburn, this month's topic was Hazmat design and control areas, and limitations in buildings. The speaker was Andrew Shanahan.

Continued the Junior Firefighter program at Centerville Elementary and West Villages with water and ice safety, along with PowerPoint presentation. Also had a demonstration of the ice safety equipment that we use, including getting into the survival suit. One of the days Deputy Hill filled in while FPO Booth was at class.

FPO Booth is now a Certified Fire and Life Safety Educator I/II. To obtain this certification, he took a 40-hour class, which required him to travel to the State Fire Academy in Stow for 5 Thursdays in a row and have 100% attendance. Along with that he had at least 20 hours of homework which included creating short videos. Once he completed his class, he took the written exam which is 150 question exam, and you need 80% to pass. Having this certification is

extremely beneficial not only to Tim but the department, without the department having members with this certification we would be ineligible to apply for and be awarded grant money for the SAFE program(s).

This past month a total of (46) permits were issued by the Fire Prevention office while collecting (\$1,120) in permit fees. Resale inspections of homes were the most common type of permit (28) and inspection (33). Overall Fire Prevention completed (75) inspections and/or activities, (11) of which were part of the Community Outreach "Senior Safe" campaign.

EMS

Assisted with acquired structure training at 25 Evans Stret, Osterville with all 4 groups.

Continue to assist with recertification and education for all personnel.

Update on 2 ambulances; on schedule for July 2025 delivery. **Chief Eldridge – hoping for delivery in July 2025.**

Working with vendors to test new technology video laryngoscope for possible upgrade to our existing cameras.

DISPATCH

COMM Fire and Rescue units were dispatched to 412 calls for service during December, to end the year with 5301 runs. The total is the 2nd highest in the district's history behind 2023 with 5425.

Also dispatched 88 calls for Cotuit Fire in December, giving that department a yearly total of 1059, the highest call volume in its history.

Of the 412 COMM calls in December, about 72% were EMS or motor vehicle related. About 58% of the calls for both departments were received via 911 transfer from BPS PSAP. Alarm companies reported 14% of the calls, 6% on business lines and 6% from units on the road, mostly fire prevention officers doing Senior Safe visits. Barnstable police directly reported about 10% of the calls dispatched.

Dispatcher schedule changes. **Chief Eldridge – would like to move dispatcher to 8-hour shifts or 2 days/2nights 4 days off. We are seeing that 24-hour shifts are becoming too much. We must give Local 1 30 days' notice before this change can happen.**

EQUIPMENT

A324 – Replaced pads and cleaned calipers on rear brakes.

A325 – Replaced steering box. Delivered to Woodward's Spring for front end alignment.

A326 – Replaced carrier bearing and reset power inverter.

A327 – Delivered to Woodward's Spring to have tie rods installed and alignment. Replaced oil and filter, lubed chassis. Found blend door stuck, found door was jammed and off track.

E304 – Cleaned and greased officer's step. Replaced faulty clips, greased all four (4) steps and checked steps for air leaks. Replaced four (4) door entry lights, rebuilt pumps intake relief valve, removed rust from the strainer drain and replaced bulb in light tower.

E306 – Replaced rear brake cans and slack adjusters. Replaced oil and fuel filters. Replaced leaking diesel lift pump for generator.

L307 – Annual ladder inspection completed. Found defroster in cab not working properly, checked and found faulty wire in harness; bypassed harness and made new connection.

M310 – SafeBoats removed and installed new boat collar. **Chief Eldridge – this was completed today.**

C320 – Replaced oil and filter.

C321 – Replaced Kussmaul auto eject 120v charger plug, changed oil, and performed undercoat on vehicle.

C322 – Performed undercoat on chassis. Had plow inspected and tested.

Power Products checked all generators. Serviced generator at station 1. Found small pin hole leak in hose on the water pump causing coolant leak on generator at station 2.

TD&I performed Mass State truck inspection on all trucks.

TRAINING

The January monthly fire training includes annual mandatory policy/procedure training, ice rescue practical training E306/L307 operations and equipment review, and Round Table fireground discussion on a structure fire in a Class V residence. The monthly Hands-On Training (HOT) evolutions into one training scenario. This scenario includes low profile, wall breach, and entanglement props while practicing Mayday procedures and self-rescue with zero visibility and in full protective equipment including SCBA.

EMS training includes an online Prodigy course on patient de-escalation and M&M Rounds at CCH and Falmouth Hospitals.

The COMM Fire Department was fortunate to participate in training evolutions at an acquired structure at 25 Evans Street, Osterville which is scheduled to demolition. Over the four days of acquired structure training. (34) COMM FD members, BHS interns, (4) COMM FD dispatchers, and (4) Cotuit FD members were able to practice fundamental fireground operations in “real world” scenarios. Training fundamentals practiced were fire attached and suppression, advancing hose lines, radio communications, search and rescue, water supply, and incident command. At no time was a live fire present during the training evolutions and a smoke machine was used to simulate zero visibility during the exercises.

Special thanks to Lt. Davern and Lt. Miskiv for their efforts and instructions to support this rigorous week of training.

Deputy Rogers – We had positive feedback from the individuals who participated in the training. The training was 4 hours per day with 3 evolutions each day. Worked on fireground with some firefighters running the scene.

OPERATIONS

Marine Division

Marine 310 is out of the water and out of service at Headquarters. The new foam collars have been installed by SAFE Boats International. They are returning shortly to install the bow cover and new lettering. Additional service work is pending before it returns to the water. The department responded to 15 marine-related incidents during CY 2024. There has been 87.5 hours of operator-based, and 213.5 total personnel hours of underway logged in the 2024 calendar year.

DIVE Team

The Dive team conducted training in December at Shubel's Pond. The focus of the training was metal detection searches.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Station 1 – cleaned floors at all entrances due to salt build up from the winter storms, cleaned carpets in administration area, more cleaning is needed. Washed, buffed, and waxed meeting hall floor.

Station 2 – repaired and added plywood to blown out window and added layer of insulation foam, cleaned floor drain.

Station 3 – repaired men's urinal.

BUDGET

See attached budget sheet.

Presentation of FY26 budget. **Deputy Hill – went over changes to budget for FY26 along with Articles that the Fire Department will be asking for at Annual Meeting in May.**

PLANNING

COMMITTEES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (IT)

MISCELLANEOUS

Chief Eldridge discussed the Town sewer timeline. Engineering comes from the Town. Per Commissioner Brown the District has 6 months to connect to sewer once it is run in front of headquarters.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

At 1745 hrs a motion was made and seconded to enter executive session. The regular meeting will not resume. Vote taken and passed unanimously.

Next meeting is February 24th at 5:00pm due to President's Day holiday.

Respectfully Submitted,



Doug Brown, Clerk