

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Rochelle Police and Fire Commissioners

September 10th, 2019

The quarterly meeting of the Rochelle Fire and Police Commissioners Board was called to order by Commissioner Robert Johns at 3:00 p.m.

Members present: Commissioners Robert Johns, Mitch Montgomery, Jim May, Mayor John Bearrows, Chief Dave Sawlsville and Deputy Chief Jeff Leininger. Absent was Chief Higby. Public in attendance: Communication Supervisor Sandy Sullivan.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Robert Johns advised no minutes to approve from the June 11th, 2019 meeting minutes.

Correspondence –

Old Business –

New Business – Robert Johns spoke about the upcoming Fire & Police Commissioners conference in Naperville on November 1-3, 2019. This would be a good training conference for Commissioner Jim May to attend as the others have all been to it. Bob Johns will forward the email on to May.

Police – Deputy Chief Jeff Leininger stated Chief Eric Higby has reserved two spots in the March & May Academy classes for 2020 as all the classes are booked thru 2020. City Council approved the purchase of a new Live Scan for \$25,000.00 along with the approval of four squad cars will be Ford Explorers. One of these units will be to replace the K-9 squad. The PD normally has a squad for 80,000 miles or 3 years. The new Fleet program we will be getting our vehicles from will take the old PD cars to sell and should be able to get more money out of them. The Police Department is looking at a new CAD system with the Ogle County Sheriff's Office along with other area departments. Sgt Smith is out with a worker's comp injury until December 2019. He had fallen in the back-parking lot of the PD. DC Leininger was asked about the pension funding which he explained how the system works. He explained that years ago, it was funded 100% which it is no longer. New Officers will be paying in longer to help rebuild it. Commissioner Montgomery asked if we had any gang or drug problems in Rochelle. DC Leininger stated they have had more graffiti lately and drugs and gang (Latin Kings) are still in our area causing problems. We have not had a gang unit for several years now, so the PD has not been doing any drug arrest/warrant searches. October 19th RPD will be participating in an Active Shooter drill at RTHS with Det Terry Inman being the coordinator. Members stated they would like to be in contact with Det Inman to see if they would be able to watch this event.

Fire – Chief Dave Sawlsville stated he has not heard any talk of staff cuts. State pension is in the red. Fire Departments eligibility list will be up in October 2020. Looking at testing next summer. At this time Chief Sawlsville stated they are fully staffed with 12 full timers and 32 volunteers with about ½ of them being active. Chief spoke about needing an M.O.U. for the ambulance transfers with Rochelle Hospital but with the Administrator gone they have been on hold. Mayor Bearrows stated he would reach out to a board member and see if he could get a meeting together. Chief Sawlsville explained that Rochelle is not transferring patients out of Rochelle Hospital at all right now. The City has already approved that the money made from Rochelle transferring would come back into Rochelle as we are not getting anything now. Chief stated he is sending out bids for the new engine. Did get a loan from the state with a low interest rate. Several Fire Fighters attended a week-long Rescue Task Force Training which included Law Enforcement. Firefighters will need to look at getting a few bullet proof vest, 3A.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner M. Montgomery moved – Commissioner J. May seconded.

Next meeting December 10, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Sullivan