

Date: May 10, 2021

OMFD Meeting

Start time: 1910

Members Present: Kenneth Richards, Jr., Angel Otano, Keith Richards, Clarke Johnson, Andrew Bellemare, Andrew Bellinghieri, Kyle Clifton, Mary Di Buono, Shawn LoStrappo, Anthony Mancini, Nicolas Pasqualini, Paul Penezic, Avery Pitts, Yani Pombrio, Geraldine Richards, Carrie Ryall, Raina Wesson, Tyler Zani, Travis Jansen, and Lauren Corbin.

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of previous meeting minutes:

Last month's minutes were posted. Motion made to pass them to file.

First	Second
Clarke Johnson	Anthony Mancini

Correspondence: None

Reports:

Chief – There were 91 calls in April. The COVID-modified dispatch protocol is no longer in place. We are back to being dispatched off of the EMD national card as we have in the past before COVID.

We had a really good turnout for dive training last weekend. I stayed away this time to give other people in the department more responsibility and see how they did. I heard that everyone stepped up and did a great job, and give special thanks to Angel and Carrie.

I will be attending the NEAFC meeting on June 23rd and 24th in New Hampshire. I will also be attending the FRI meeting from July 27th – July 30th in Charlotte, NC. I am excited to bring ideas back that will help us.

Deputy Fire Marshal – Routine annual inspections right now. Inspections will be taking place at 800 Flanders Road this week.

Deputy Chief – First, the draft for the quarterly comp is completed, and all should have reviewed it by now. As always if you find an error or feel there was an error, please contact me.

The recruitment and retention committee will meet next week.

The safety committee will meet this week.

Gear: Please wash your gear on a regular basis, some gear is in desperate need of a good wash. If you haven't washed it in the last 6 months, please do so.

Class A uniforms: Anyone who does not have a class A and is off probation, please see me.

Class B uniforms: Anyone who does not have a class B uniform please contact me.

I will be out for the next month, unable to respond. If you find any way to be here a little extra this month, I would greatly appreciate any support. I anticipate being around for meetings, paperwork, and other non-firefighting/EMS items.

Please ensure that when you back up you have a backer when available and when there is not one, please make sure you take extra precautions.

I would like to thank Captain Johnson and Ryan Burdick for supporting the dive team and getting our food for training. I would also like to thank Dive Director Ryall and Assistant Dive Director Mancini for running a smooth training and congratulate all for a great diving weekend. Our new members pushed through tough conditions to get certified. It was a very cold and unyielding weekend in the water.

Thank you for all those who responded to the highway fatality. If you find you want to talk, please let me know. Please feel free to reach out to anyone with whom you feel comfortable.

Assistant Chief – Apparatus: 61 OOS getting tank to pump pipe replaced. The new 64 is in service, but we are waiting for some shelving to come in. 64 will keep going in and out of service to install shelving and new tires. All annual services have been completed with the exception of G-65.

Buildings: Continue to disinfect stations and apparatus daily. The fire alarm panel at HQ needs to be replaced. It is showing a trouble on the first floor horns, but everything does work properly. The station alert system at HQ does not have working audio. Parts have been ordered for repairs. However, until repairs are complete, be sure to wear a radio or a pager in the station to be aware of incoming calls.

Equipment: Scott sights are in service on all officer seat SCBAs, so please train on them and get comfortable using them.

Driver Training: Several members are actively training to progress, although there are several who have not trained in an extended period of time. Please contact officers to schedule training sessions. Please try to avoid long periods of time between training sessions. The officers have been a great asset in assisting with training both career and volunteer members,

Training Reports: I am working to input all training reports for weekly drills during drill time. Please continue to accurately fill out training forms in a timely manner.

Next week's training will be rescheduled as we are doing a pinning ceremony.

Pager Call Response: We need more volunteers to respond to pager calls. There are many nights when it is just the duty officer responding. It's a shared responsibility to help ensure we provide the highest level of service to our community. I know what it's like to be that officer covering numerous nights each week without any help. It's stressful and discouraging. I know everyone has a life outside of the FD, but please review your activity level and see if you are able to help ease that burden on others.

Physicals: Numerous members are overdue for their physical. There are posts at both stations. Please schedule and complete your physical ASAP.

State Radio System: Our current system is outdated and in need of repair. Over the next 2-5 years, it is likely that we would have to spend a significant amount of money to make sure our system will continue to work. Our system has multiple repeaters that pick up what we are saying and transmit to fire alarm. Without the repeaters, they would not be able to hear us. The system the PD has switched to is CLMRN: Connecticut Land Mobile Radio Network. It is a P25 phase two system. It is a digital system in 700-800 range. It meets the recommendations and requirements set by the Department of Homeland Security after 9-11. This is a higher-end system that can be encrypted. The only people who can be on these channels are first responders. CLMRN used to just be for state PD, but now municipalities are invited to join in. We have to buy new radios to take part. This is a complicated process and we are meeting with engineers to go over the equipment and where we have to put antennas and repeaters. It will not be a huge change for OMFD because we already have a repeater system. Soon there will be a report that the committee can give to the chief officers of the town to help decide on whether they should move forward with it and evaluate funding options.

ISO Schedule Review: all information has been submitted and we are awaiting results.

Captain – We have returned to normal dispatch procedures for R1 responses. It is going to pick up and get busy. The help is appreciated. It will be tough over the next month or so because DC is out, Lt. Ragsdale is on business, and I will be in Florida for a little while in June.

Please check out the duty night schedules and be flexible with those nights. Please reach out if you will be in for duty.

Thank you for everything you do.

Lieutenant – Not present. No report.

Engineer – Not present. Annual pump tests for the apparatus.

Assistant Engineer – Not present. I apologize for my absence. I have been doing the weekly checks. I am in the process of building a new home and that is occupying my time. I apologize for not being very active recently. I am planning to help out with duty nights and weekend shifts.

Dive Director – Thank you for supporting the LGS class; it was very successful. We look forward to having more people join, come to our trainings, and be active.

Assistant Dive Director – Congratulations to those who took the class. Bottles will be rotated in and out for hydro testing. Make sure you are organizing your gear and have everything you need so we are ready for calls.

Medical Director – No report.

Applications/Probations/Appearances

- Lauren Corbin – Vote into social probation. Lauren works for Westerly Hospital. AC Richards did an interview with her one-on-one because she had a family event and could not attend the last meeting to be interviewed by the membership team. She has children and her husband is in the military. They will be here for another 3 years. She said she is in one cog of emergency services and she doesn't know exactly where her place on earth is, and she is trying to figure out where she fits best. She knows she is here to

help people. She is a certified public safety officer. She would like to be more hands on in emergency services. The membership team recommends a positive vote.

- Travis Jansen – vote into junior membership probation. Travis has been coming around to the firehouse around 3-4 times per week after school and is expressing interest. The membership team recommends a positive vote.

Members up for vote off probation:

- Lauren Corbin

Yea's	Nay's	Abstain
9	0	0

- Travis Jansen

Yea's	Nay's	Abstain
10	0	0

- **Members for appearance:** Joshua Welch. He owns the bee farm on Al Harvey Road. He is interested in joining and his son may be interested in joining as well. He was unable to make it tonight. The membership committee is willing to count this as his first appearance, if we as a membership are comfortable with that. The membership agreed for this to be his first appearance. He will be coming in for an interview with AC and will be here next week for people to meet.

Old business

We did not have enough voting members at last month's meeting to make decisions through voting, so we must ratify last month's votes.

Motion made to ratify last month's votes.

First	Second
Chief Richards	Andrew Bellinghieri

A hand vote was performed to ratify last month's votes.

Yeas	Nays	Abstentions

9	1	0
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Last month's meeting votes have been ratified.

New business

4th of July Parade – Please sign up for the parade and help wax the trucks. We need people to get the trucks ready, make sure that the stations are staffed, and ensure we have drivers. The top priority is to staff our district. DC wants our department to participate and get back out into the community's eye after being limited by COVID for so long. If we do not have a significant response to the sign up, we will not be able to participate. Please contact AC or Captain to get working parties established. It should only take a day per rig if we have enough people to wax and prepare the vehicles.

Pinning Ceremony: Monday, May 17th, 2021. Please respond to the email DC sent out by Wednesday as we need a headcount for the event to arrange food, beverages, and appropriate seating. You are welcome to invite family. Weather permitting, we will put up the tent. The event will start at 1800, but set up will be at 1730. Please wear your Class A uniforms.

Dues Arrears Letters: We will be sending out letters to people who have not paid their dues in two years.

MDA Boot Drive: We have not been notified yet of anything related to the MDA Boot Drive.

Memorial Day Parade: This will be similar to what we did last year. We will gather at Station 1 at 0800. We will put a wreath at the Vietnam and WWII memorials. Kick off is at 0830. Wear Class As if you have them.

Committees

Banquet – Saturday June 19th at the Mystic Hilton. Cocktail hours begins at 1800. Dinner and awards will be at 1915. The sign up sheet for the event is up at the front table tonight and is otherwise posted at headquarters. Please sign up. We are currently limited to 85 people in the room, but that might change on the 19th of this month. Please sign up so we can get our headcount going and remember that you are permitted to bring a guest.

Building and Grounds: Things are being done day-to-day for maintenance. The roof of Station 1 has a ten foot section where shingles are pushed up. Pawcatuck Roofing is hopefully coming tomorrow to evaluate the roof.

FF Bellinghieri suggests a chair rail for the day room upstairs at HQ to protect the wall behind the table.

Remarks for good of the order

President Ryall encourages everyone to pass out applications to people you know in an effort to recruit. This is not just the job of the recruitment and retention team.

Adjournment

First	Second
Anthony Mancini	Angel Otano

End Time: 2000