



Burlington Fire Department



136 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401-8378
(802) 864-4554 • (802) 658-2700 (TTY)
Business Fax (802) 864-5945 • Central Station Fax (802) 865-5387

MEETING OF THE BURLINGTON FIRE COMMISSION

AGENDA

Tuesday, August 8, 2023
8:30 am

Conference Room
Fire Station #1
136 South Winooski Ave
Burlington, VT 05401

Join Via Zoom Option:
Call in for audio:
Dial: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 959 2324 0835
Passcode: 047205

- 1) Public Comment
- 2) Review and Accept Minutes from June Commission Meetings.
- 3) Chief's Oral Report
- 4) Old Business/New Business



Stephen Petit
Deputy Chief of Administration

cc: Fire Commission
All Stations

Union President
Clerk/Treas. Office

Command Staff

AGENDA AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE MEDIA FORMS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. FOR DISABILITY ACCESS INFORMATION CALL THE BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AT 864-4552 (TTY # 865-7142).

BURLINGTON FIRE COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

August 8, 2023

Minutes of August 8, 2023 Meeting of the Burlington Fire Commission. The meeting of the Burlington Fire Commission convened at 08:30 hours via Zoom and in person with Commissioners Bond, McLaughlin, Perkinson, Sheehey, and Chapman. Chief LaChance, and Administrative Assistant Meghan Sweeney were also present. Deputy Chief Petit and Battalion Chief of EMS Marsha McCombie introduced themselves but did not attend the meeting.

Public Comment

No members of the public present.

Review and Accept Minutes June Commission Meetings

Movement to accept minutes as written by Commissioner McLaughlin and seconded by Commissioner Sheehey.

Chief's Oral Report

Recruit Class 23-1: One member was unable to meet the EMT requirements and has resigned. The remaining six are doing very well.

Dispatch: The four employees the fire department hired are doing well. At this point the BFFA Union members are no longer working additional shifts for overtime to help cover. Still working towards Police taking back the full supervision of the division.

Administrative: Chief LaChance has put together a flow chart that shows different projects and tasks and who is in charge of overseeing them.

48/96 Schedule: Chief LaChance has asked for a 90 day check-in survey to be sent to the membership to see how the trial is going. BFFA Union is working on distributing and collecting the data.

Fleet: Yearly inspection are challenging to get coordinate with all apparatus. Discussions are still on hold for ordering a new ambulance, which means the possible timeline is over three years until a new one can be purchased and received.

Buildings: The Station 2 bedroom project bid has been awarded. Timeline is about 2 months to complete once the work starts.

Station 1 has had water issues. Working with Capitol regarding a number of projects.

Station 2 is having major problems with the apparatus floor.

Budget: FY23 budget is complete. While we were \$47,000 under, the retention bonus was not paid and will be a significant amount in the FY24 budget making up for last year's bonus.

Commissioner Bond is going to write a letter to city leadership on behalf of the commission to express concern regarding the problem with the floor at Station 2, the stairwell and floor supports at Station 1.

Old Business/New Business

- Commissioner Bond is aware of UVM trying to get guidance from the Fire Department regarding the use and storage of electric bikes on campus. The Fire Marshal's Office is working with UVM to try to come up with safe protocols as the lithium batteries cause a challenge for fire suppression responses.

While discussing responses to fires that include lithium batteries Commissioner Perkinson wanted to make it known that at no point should the Fire Department have to take on responsibility of transporting or disposal of any containers or devices that were on fire or used to contain the remnants of items that were on fire.

- Commissioner Perkinson asked about data for current call types. Chief LaChance said that from January through July there were 277 overdoses. He is going to try to provide the commission with data that will show how often we respond to repeat callers and other criteria. He's hoping that the CARES program will help alleviate some of the calls for assistance that can be handled by non-emergency responses.
- Commissioner Chapman asked if the legal issues surrounding Burlington High School and the contaminants would impact the general fund budget. Commissioner Perkinson explained some of the legal process and said likely wouldn't impact this year's budget at all.
- Chief LaChance asked for any feedback the Commissioners had for him as Chief Engineer now that he's been in the position for six months. The Commission said he has done a great job while dealing with a reduced Command Staff and has brought a lot of diversity to the department with new hires. Commissioner Perkinson thinks he has done a great job so far, and would only ask to be added to media release list for any important information shared with the public.
- Executive Session: Commissioner Bond Pursuant to Title 1, Section 313 of the Vermont Statutes, upon the affirmative vote a majority of the members present, a motion to go into executive session is carried to discuss matters where the general public knowledge would place the Department at a substantial disadvantage. Commissioner Laughlin made the motion that was seconded by Commissioner Sheehey. Meeting went into executive session at 09:37 to discuss matters related to the outcome of the union grievance.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 10:07 with no action taken from executive session.

Burlington Fire Commission
Tuesday, August 8, 2023 08:30 AM
136 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401

SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	EMAIL
Andrea Sheehy	LSHEEHY@gmail.com
Patricia Larkin	jpr-larkin@burlingtonvt.gov
Ashley Bond	abond@burlingtonvt.gov
Kevin McLaughlin	KMcLaughlin@burlingtonvt.gov
Meghan Sweeney	msweeney@burlingtonvt.gov
Monica Chapman	mchapman@puraclean.com
Mike Macmure	MACMURE@Burlingtonvt.gov