



CLARENCE FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

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Board of Fire Commissioners
Nathan M. Work, Chairman
Douglas J. Larkin, Vice-Chairman
Michael Dudas
Brian Gaske
Mark Heim

Treasurer
Sandra J. Larkin

Secretary
Kristi Mora

The Board of Fire Commissioners' Work Session was called to order by Chairman Work on **Tuesday, July 19, 2022** at 18:38 hours.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Work, Larkin, Dudas, Gaske, & Heim

Absent: Secretary Mora & Treasurer Larkin

Guests: Chief Brett Hanford, Assistant Chief 9-2 Christian Rider-Work, Lieutenant (L-3) Mackenzie Rider-Work.

At the request of Chief Hanford, the Work Session was held to discuss a possible Junior Firefighter Program, which would allow 16 and 17 year olds to become active members of the Clarence Fire Company. Chief Hanford is in favor of such a program and believes that it could help with recruitment and retention of firefighters in the future. He is aware that it will also require conversations with the Fire Company Board of Directors.

The topics discussed include:

- NYS DOH permits 17 year olds to obtain their EMT-B certification
- The District's Insurance carrier (*Emerling, Floss, & Murphy*) reports that Junior Firefighters would be covered (VFBL) and indemnified as long as there are by-laws that substantiate their acceptance into active membership.
- Differences were discussed between the Boy Scouts of America *Exploring* program and the Junior Firefighter program.
- There was a historical discussion regarding the Cadet and Torch Boy programs
- The notion of decreasing the age requirement to 17 instead of 18, as currently established

Many different options and ideas were discussed, as well as some advantages, drawbacks, and challenges. The discussion moved into the overall idea of recruitment and retention in the fire service and not just via a Junior Firefighter program.

Chief Hanford is going to put together a proposal over the next couple of months to decrease the age restriction to 17 for active membership and bring it back to the district; as well as, the Fire Company Board of Directors for further discussion.

MOTION by Work, second by Larkin, to adjourn the meeting at 19:31 hours, carried.

All motions were unanimously carried unless otherwise noted.

Attest,

Nathan M. Work, Chairman & Secretary Pro Tem

cc: Chief, Commissioners, Day Room Bulletin Board, Website