

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Sherman called the special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on March 16, 2011, to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Sherman, Nevelos, Dandrow and Baker were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner. Commissioner Longo arrived at 5:59 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Baker, to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2011 regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Nevelos, to approve the payment of bills for February in the amount of \$45,751.84. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Clark presented former Board of Fire Commissioner Robert Berkmoes a commissioner's helmet as a token of appreciation for his service to the Board. Commissioner Berkmoes thanked the Board and the Department for all the work they do for the Town.

Chairman Sherman postponed the Legislative Committee Report to give the other invited legislators time to arrive.

Chief's Report:

- Chief Clark has devoted most of the month putting together the Department Five Year Plan and other reports requested by Town Manager Brumback and a member of the Board of Finance.

Chairman Sherman asked for a status update on the electricity audit for Fire Headquarters. Chief Clark explained to the Board that the power monitor has not been able to get any readings from the solar panel because they were covered in snow. Now that the snow has melted, the monitor should be able to get a reading for this month's consumption.

Chairman Sherman asked about the meeting with the Water Department that was mentioned in one of the morning briefings. Chief Clark explained that the meeting was a routine meeting between the Water Department and DFM/Captain Casarella to discuss hydrant placement from submitted site plans.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Dandrow to accept the Chief's Report as given. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A memo from Chief Clark recommending rescinding the current mileage reimbursement policy for training.

A letter from the Truck Committee to the Board informing them of the committee's progress.

Legislative Committee Report - Vice Chairperson Dandrow thanked audience members, Senator Markley and Representative Sampson, for attending the Board meeting.

A video presentation from scenes of recent fires, prepared by Department Photographer Ann Dyer, was shown.

Chief Clark handed out packets for the legislators with a synopsis of the concerns and needs of the Department and briefly reviewed its contents. The main topics were:

- The need for additional manpower for the weekday, daytime hours.
- Support for the FEMA SAFER Grant for additional firefighters.
- The Governor's budget cuts that will affect training costs.
- Asked for support of the FEMA AFG Grant that would fund Rescue Core training for the Department.
- Asked for support in denying Bill #487 that would eliminate safety requirements in town ordinances.
- Asked for support of Bill #997 that would merge the Connecticut Fire Academy with DEHMS.
- The age and condition of the fire apparatus and any state funding that may come available for the department for engine replacement.

An open discussion was held with Senator Markley, Representative Sampson, the Board and Chief Clark. Senator Markley and Representative Sampson discussed their willingness to look into the Department's concerns and encouraged the Board to contact them in the future with any other issues.

A break was called at 5:49 p.m.

The meeting was rejoined at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioner Longo arrived during the break.

Legislative Committee Report cont.:

Chairman Sherman thanked Representative Zeke Zalaski and Representative Aresimowicz, who arrived during the break, for taking the time to view the video presentation and to discuss and show support for the issues of the Department.

As suggested by the legislators, the Board will send a letter to Congressman John Larson requesting support on the two FEMA grants the Department has applied for.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Dandrow, to approve to rescind the mileage reimbursement policy for FFI training. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the expense of the policy and the potential impact it could have on the training budget.

NEW BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS:

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Nevelos, that the Board adopts Consent Item 9.A. as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Company 2's fundraising events.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Nevelos, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Mary Baker, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners