

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Sherman called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on May 19, 2011, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners present were Sherman, Longo, Nevelos, Dandrow and Baker. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner.

Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Nevelos, to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2011 regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Longo, to approve the payment of bills for April 2011 in the amount of \$36,741.16. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Secretary's Report:

Commissioner Baker reported the monthly activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of April 2011.

Chief's Report:

Chief Clark reported:

- Chief Clark attended the public hearing on the 2011-2012 budget. The Fire Department budget was not discussed.
- Deputy Manager/Town Attorney Mark Scotia surveyed the Beaton and Corbin site with Chief Clark and Assistant Chief Wisner for safety issues. The only course of action that the Town of Southington can take is to reinforce the existing fence to keep trespassers out. The Fire Department members have been made aware of the safety issues at the site and will notify the Police Department if they see anyone trespassing.
- A scheduling module for Firehouse Software has been installed in the server. The module will help to prepare weekly payrolls by gathering daily information from the roster sheets and overtime callback from the incident reports (NFIRS).
- A new Verizon Wireless representative met with Chief Clark to discuss the current plans. Chairman Sherman discussed Town Manager Brumback's desire to consolidate all town cell phone plans. Chief Clark reported that the current plans being considered are all similar to Verizon Wireless.
- The May monthly Department Heads Meeting was held in the Department Training Room. The room allowed for a round table discussion. The meetings will be held in the Training Room for the remainder of the year with the exception of June because of Youth Honor Day.

- Town Manager Brumback and Finance Director Portelinha met with Chief Clark to discuss the current budget. Chief Clark presented the estimated expenses for the rest of the fiscal year and the submitted requests for transfer and appropriations for the accounts that were in need of funds. It was agreed that after the requested transfers were made, there would be no other money available, based on the past three years' expenditures.
- Chief Clark spent a lot of time on personnel issues, which have been rectified.
- A class on Harassment and Violence in the Workplace is being scheduled for all Department officers in July through CIRMA. Any available seats will be offered to the Police and Highway departments.
- Chief Clark attended the last Board of Finance meeting to discuss Department transfer and appropriation requests. All requests were approved.
- ESPN invited the Department to a meeting to discuss an emergency drill they are planning. While at the meeting with the Bristol Fire Department, Chief Clark approached Chief Poise about preparing a mutual aid agreement between the two Departments.
- The Truck Committee has done a tremendous amount of research for a replacement engine. Committee members have visited other fire departments to view their apparatus and find out the strengths and weaknesses of different manufacturers. Sutphen, a top name apparatus producer, visited the station with a demo engine that the Committee reviewed.
- At the IT meeting, there was a discussion on replacing the game well line with fiber optic.
- Captain and lieutenant promotional testing will begin on June 9.
- A tentative date for the next probationary firefighter class is July 11, 2011. Currently there are five eligible applicants: four would be training as firefighters and one for fire police. The Recruitment and Retention Committee will be meeting next week to discuss advertising for more applicants.
- The Department was dispatched to a structure fire on Upson Place. After extinguishing the fire, it was determined to be in Cheshire and the scene was turned over to them.
- Members of the Department attended AMR's annual picnic.
- Chief Clark participated in a Relay for Life Zumba class.
- Engine 12's steering box needs to be replaced. The cost of the replacement part is \$1,000. There have been many other emergency repairs this fiscal year that show the age of the Department's apparatus and the need for replacements.
- Pierce sent out recall notices for accelerator pedals jamming on specific apparatus. After examining the fleet, two units needed immediate attention; L1 and E21. Firematic came out right away and repaired the

pedals. All affected apparatus will be updated with a factory replacement once they are received from the manufacturer.

- Chief Wisner attended FF Derek Currao's graduation from the Connecticut Fire Academy's forty-seventh class today. FF Currao is a member of Company 1 and graduated in the top ten percent of his class. FF Currao was also awarded the prestigious Michael C. Riley Hard Charger Award.

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

COMMISSION COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Baker asked for more details about the scheduling module software. Chief Clark reported that the module is part of the Firehouse Software that the Department uses for incident reporting. The module connects to the rosters and incident reports to compile reports for payroll.

Commissioner Baker asked about the Departments plans to commemorate September 11. Chief Clark reported that the Department is invited to multiple events each year and attend as many as possible. The Department has been invited to attend a ceremony at the Town Green being organized by Reverend Victoria Triano. Commissioner Baker also asked how to request the participation of an engine at functions. Chief Clark reported that interested parties should contact him directly to see if it is a function that the Department can attend and if the staffing costs are manageable.

Chairman Sherman asked about how the Department got involved in ESPN's drill. Chief Clark reported that they were invited to attend by ESPN.

Chief Clark also reported that Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2011, the Department will be participating in the annual parade. The Board was invited to march with the Department.

Commissioner Dandrow asked Chief Clark if he knew the fate of the training cuts in the state budget. Chief Clark reported that as of this time the Fire Academy is still in the budget but any training reimbursement program has been cut.

The fate of the Wolcott Training School was discussed. The current proposal is for the state to build a new school in Cheshire next to the prison. Chief Clark would like to have a training building in Southington off of West Queen, near the old dump. He feels that it would be a good area where the Department members could train and not disturb town residents.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the transfer of \$575 into the Dues and Conferences account.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the approval of Company 3's request to hold their annual lobster dinner on Sunday, September 11, 2011.

Memo from Chief Clark requesting approval to attend the NEIAFC conference June 23-25, 2011 and the IAFC conference August 23-28, 2011.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM FIREFIGHTERS AND THE PUBLIC:

Captain Gus Riedinger requested permission for Company 1 members to participate in a Jimmy Fund collection at Stop and Shop on Sunday. Chief Clark agreed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Baker to move Item 8.A. to Consent Agenda Item 9.C. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS:

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Longo, that the Board adopts Consent Items 9.A. through 9.C. as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

- A. Company 3's request to hold their annual lobster dinner on Sunday, September 11, 2011.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

- B. Chief Clark requesting approval to attend the NEIAFC conference June 23-25, 2011 and the IAFC conference August 23-28, 2011.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

- C. Chief Clark recommending the transfer of \$575 into the Dues and Conferences account.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Baker, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark and Assistant Chief Wisner, to discuss contract negotiations at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Contract negotiations were discussed.

Returned to regular session at 6:50 p.m.

No action was taken.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Longo, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously

Mary Baker, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners