

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Daly called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on January 17, 2007, to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Daly, Kupec, Sherman, Bedard and Perillo were present. Also in attendance were Chief McDonough and Asst. Chief Wisner.

Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for the death of FF Daniel Mascalo, who was a retired member of Company 2 for over 30 years.

MOTION: by Kupec, seconded by Bedard, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2006, meeting as circulated, with the amendment of the Assistant Chief salary being \$88,405. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Kupec, to approve payment of bills for December 2006 in the amount of \$42,859.77. Motion carried unanimously.

CHIEFS REPORT: (Copy attached to minutes)

- To comply with the DEP standards for underground storage tanks the chiefs will be meeting with Service Station Equipment Inc. to review the current equipment and to see if changes are needed to meet the DEP requirements.
- Laptops have been installed in E31 and E51. The engine companies will receive training to operate them.
- A \$500 offer for the 1967 Maxim ladder has been received. After discussion the board decided to advertise the ladder and to have the language clearly stating "as is" condition and that it not being usable as an active ladder truck.
- Chief McDonough attended a meeting at the state capitol with the Joint Fire Council legislators to support a bill that would have the state fund firefighter training. This would include FFI and FF2. Public Safety Commission supports it but funding would have to be provided from the governors' office.
- Mike Chapman from Firematic has scheduled two trips to Appleton, WI to view the new ladder truck at the Pierce Manufacturing factory. The first trip will include Asst. Chief Wisner and Captain Clark. The second trip will include Chief McDonough and the department mechanic, Mark Azklar. The expected delivery is in April.
- Asst. Chief Wisner reported attending statewide task force meeting for our region. They are in the beginning stages of putting a plan together that would be used to provide aide in other towns when disaster strikes. The next meeting will be held in Southington.

- The Inspection Bureau has been doing inspections of the town properties and after completing Engine Company 2 the hooded system was determined to be noncompliant with the fire code. Company 2 officers have been notified and have stopped any functions that would have needed the use of the stove. Chief McDonough is looking into the cost of replacing the system. Commissioner Sherman suggested that the old Company 3's hooded system may be useable.

MOTION: by Perillo, seconded by Kupec, to accept the Chief's Report. Motion carried unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS:

Memo from Assistant Chief Wisner requesting permission to attend the FDIC conference in Indianapolis, IN on April 15-21, 2007.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Captain Ed Ozga from Company 3 stated that he was concerned with the request in the new budget for additional manpower that would be housed at the Milldale firehouse. He stated that his figures do not support a shortage of manpower and that he will forward his numbers to the Finance Board. He feels that with Company 2 as back up that his company has provided adequate support for his district. He feels that the communication from the chief about the manpower was poor. He also feels more should be done for recruitment and retention. Chief McDonough told him that this request that has been submitted and denied for many years and it is from a five-year plan that was written fifteen years ago. The location of Company 3 would be the chosen sight because that district has shown a large amount of residential and commercial growth.

2nd Lt. Jonathan Block from Company 3 stated that he realizes that the town is growing and there may be a need for more paid members but he is worried about the future of the volunteer. He feels that there needs to be more communication between the Board of Fire Commissioners, Administration and the volunteers. He feels that regular visits to the fire house would keep a more open line of communication. He also feels that inter-company training would aid the volunteers in knowing one another and the career firefighters. Chairman Daly told him that the board does would not support any move toward ending the volunteer companies and that the request for manpower is in answer to diminishing volunteer ranks that is being felt statewide. Chief McDonough also expressed that he has no intention of eliminating the volunteer force.

Lt. Block also asked for a member of the snow plowing company be contacted and setup a meeting between a Company 3 member and the company representative to stake the parking lot to minimize damage.

Lt. Block also asked for the state smoke trailer to be moved out of Company 3. Chief McDonough stated that the department helps the state out by housing the

trailer in the winter so they can do repair work on it and in return the department is not charged when used in town. Chairman Daly asked what the area would be used for if the trailer was not in there and it was determined it was a convenience issue to access the gear racks.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Kupec, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of the Chief, Asst. Chief and representatives of IAFF Local 2033, to discuss personnel matters at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel matters were discussed. No action was taken.

MOTION: by Perillo, seconded by Kupec, to return to regular session at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting went back into regular session at 8:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Budget was discussed.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Kupec, to approve the budget request for fiscal year 2006–2007. Motion carried unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Bedard, seconded by Kupec, to approve Asst. Chief Wisner's request to attend the FDIC conference in Indianapolis, IN on April 15-21, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Daly asked Chief McDonough to contact Company 2's captain and discuss the budget request for his company and the future expenses.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Kupec, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of the Chief, and Asst. Chief to discuss personnel matters at 9:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel matters were discussed. No action was taken.

MOTION: by Perillo, seconded by Kupec, to return to regular session at 9:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting went back into regular session at 9:47 p.m.

MOTION: by Perillo, seconded by Kupec, to return to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Sherman, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners