

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Daly called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on December 10, 2008, to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Daly, Sherman, Bedard, and Nivelos were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner. Commissioner Longo arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Daly welcomed Gus Nivelos to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

MOTION: by Bedard, seconded by Sherman, to table the election of officers until the January meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bedard, seconded by Sherman, to accept the minutes of November 18, 2008, special meeting as circulated. Motion carried with four ayes and one abstention.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nivelos, to approve the payment of bills for November in the amount of \$40,870.64. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Longo arrived.

Chief's Report: (Copy attached to the minutes.)

- Chief Clark attended the annual Elk's Awards Night where FF Solury was honored.
- The Statewide Emergency Planning Committee held their meeting on November 20, 2008 in the training room.
- Chief Clark attended the groundbreaking ceremony at Plantsville School.
- An OptiComm representative met with Chief Clark to do a town-wide tour for evaluating the town's needs for additional systems. Chief Clark met with Chief Posse of Bristol to discuss a grant he is writing for OptiComm systems and the possibility of including Southington in it. There is a teleconference scheduled for tomorrow with Chief Posse, OptiComm, a grant writer and Chief Clark to discuss the options.
- During the meeting with Chief Posse, mutual aid was also discussed.
- On January 17, 2009, the department will participate in the Polar Plunge at Slopers. Company 1 has volunteered to provide safety personnel.
- A meeting was held with Town Manager Weichsel, Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney Mark Sciota, Finance Director Emilia Portelinha, Chairman Daly, and Chief Clark to discuss the IRS investigation of the volunteer reimbursement. Chief Clark met with all four companies' officers, to let them know the status of the investigation.

- Company 5 was chosen as a focus group for the STEP program.
- There was a radio malfunction on December 2, 2008 which resulted in the loss of all radio communication. The problem was found to be a faulty microwave link from the Police Department to the water tower. The estimated repair time is ten days and in the interim the paging system is down.
- MUNIS training was held at Headquarters on December 9 and 10, to learn how to input budget requests for the 09-10 budget. The budget submission deadline is January 16, 2009.
- E33 has been moved to Company 2 and renamed B2. The old B2 is at Aszklar's having the skid load removed and will become B1. B1 will also have the skid load removed and become the utility truck. Chief Clark feels this reassignment will better utilize the department's resources.
- Chief Clark is compiling information of other local departments who charge for services.
- The testing process for entry level firefighters is starting. The current list will expire in June 2009.
- Chief Clark passed out a report from Lt. Kurtz about the CERT program. The first class will graduate on December 17, 2008. Another class is scheduled to start in May 2009.
- Deputy Town Manager Sciota sent out an email detailing the requirements for subsidized programs which require their own line item. To comply, Chief Clark will include the CERT program as a new line item in the 09-10 budget proposal.
- Company 1 has scheduled a meeting with Chief Clark on December 15, 2008.

Commissioner Bedard asked for more detail of the meeting held on the IRS audit. The meeting was to discuss the actions the town would take in response to the audit. It was determined that the Finance Director and Deputy Town Manager would put together a letter to the IRS stating that the town always thought of the money as being a reimbursement. Changes in the future monthly company reports will be made, but at this time it has not been determined what the changes are. The IRS has changed their stand on the taxing the annual tax abatement. The abatement is no longer taxable and will be taken directly off the tax bill.

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

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Sherman, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark, and Asst. Chief Wisner to discuss personnel matters and interview candidates at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel matters were discussed.

Candidates were interviewed.

Return to regular session at 9:09 p.m.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded Sherman, to promote Lt. Peter Kurtz to the position of captain, effective immediately after the retirement of Captain Mikosz. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Sherman, to promote FF James Paul to the position of lieutenant, effective immediately after the retirement of Captain Mikosz. Motion carried unanimously.

The board thanked all the candidates and felt they all had the qualities for the advancement. They look forward to seeing them in future interviews.

MOTION: by Bedard, seconded by Longo, to pay Assistant Chief Wisner the full Fire Marshal stipend. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending scheduling a budget workshop on January 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting would also include the interviews for the entry level firefighter position.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending approval for Assistant Chief Wisner to attend the FDIC conference in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 21 – 25, 2009.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending approval for Captain Training Officer Mello to attend the FDIC conference in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 21 – 25, 2009.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Captain Zygmunt congratulated the candidates and said he was pleased with the outcome.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Budget was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Bedard, seconded by Longo, to schedule a budget workshop on January 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. and to include interviews for the entry level firefighter position. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Bedard, to approve Assistant Chief Wisner attending the FDIC conference in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 21 – 25, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bedard, seconded by Longo, to approve Captain Training Officer Mello attending the FDIC conference in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 21 – 25, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Daly questioned the town policy for both conference requests. Chief Clark will contact the Town Manager for approval.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Bedard, to adjourn to the meeting at 9:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Sherman, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners