

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Daly called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on February 19, 2009, to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Daly, Sherman, Longo, Nevelos and Berkmoes were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was turned over to Chief Clark.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Sherman, nominating Daly as Chairman. Nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was turned over to Chairman Daly.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Berkmoes, nominating Longo as Vice Chairperson. Nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Berkmoes, seconded by Nevelos, nominating Sherman as Secretary. Nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Berkmoes, seconded by Longo, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of the Chief and Asst. Chief, to discuss personnel matters 7:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Returned to regular session at 7:43 p.m.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Sherman, to add under Unfinished Business addressing Volunteer Reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Berkmoes, seconded by Nevelos, to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2009, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nevelos, to approve the payment of bills for January in the amount of \$30,481.96. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chief Clark attended the following events:

- January 21 – CERT graduation.
- January 21 – Legislative breakfast.
- January 23 – Web DEMHS EOC training.
- January 27 – Connecticut Chief’s Association meeting.
- January 29 – YMCA annual meeting.
- February 5 – Met with the volunteer officers, along with Chairman Daly, to discuss the status of the volunteer reimbursement.
- February 9 – Met with Board of Finance Commissioner Stanforth on the Fire Department budget request. Chief Clark is scheduled to meet with Board of Finance Chairman Moise during the month.
- February 10 – Career Chief’s meeting. The status of CPAT was discussed and it’s unknown future. The entry level testing will be postponed until a solution to the physical agility testing is resolved.
- February 11 – Monthly Department Heads meeting.
- February 11 – Met with the Town Manager to review the 09-10 budget requests.
- February 12 – United Way annual meeting.
- February 13 – Reviewed plans of the Police Department’s new mobile command vehicle. The Fire Department’s interest is in the capabilities of its use as a backup dispatch center.
- February 19 – Information Technologies meeting. The committee plans to put in a 100 foot free standing tower at Company 2 for the canopy system.

Chief Clark reported:

- A meeting is set with the union and the Town to discuss the Deputy Fire Marshal position on Friday.
- L2 will be lent to the Fire Academy on Friday for the recruit class training. FF Lee will be in charge of its delivery and operation.
- Firehouse Software is being loaded and reviewed.
- There is a staff meeting planned for March 11, 2009.
- To be active in a green approach, we have instituted a used battery collection at each station.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending approval of Company 2 to grant FF Joshua Levin a six-month leave of absence.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending approval of Company 5’s request to hold their annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on March 14, 2009, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM and a Flower Sale April 9 – 12, 2009, from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending approval of Company 5 to grant 1st Lt. Michael Hughes a six-month leave of absence.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the revision and adoption of the Rules and Regulations.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending approval of Company 1's request to hold a Pancake Breakfast on March 8, 2009 and a Tip-A-Firefighter fundraiser on May 1, 2009 at El Sombrero's Restaurant.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the pursuit and institution of a policy to bill various Fire Department services.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the approval of the revised entry level employment application.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the adoption of a system to award current Southington volunteer firefighters up to five additional points on entry level firefighter testing.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending requesting a Special Appropriation of \$88,000 to the Overtime account.

Commissioner Daly presented retired Commissioner Bedard a commemorative fire helmet as a thank you for her years of dedicated service to the board.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to authorize Chief Clark to proceed with contacting the Finance Department in the restructuring of the Volunteer Reimbursement policy, this will include issuing W-2's. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nevelos, to approve Company 2's request to grant FF Joshua Levin a six-month leave of absence. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Berkmoes, seconded by Sherman, to approve Company 5's requests to hold their annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on March 14, 2009 from 4:00 – 7:00 PM and a Flower Sale April 9 – 12, 2009 from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to approve Company 5's request to grant 1st Lt. Michael Hughes a six-month leave of absence. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Berkmoes, seconded by Sherman, to open the discussion on the revisions to the Rules and Regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held as to what the revisions would be. The board requested that Chief Clark submit the discussed changes and any other proposals he deems necessary, at the next meeting.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to approve Company 1's request to hold a Pancake Breakfast on March 8, 2009 and a Tip-A-Firefighter fundraiser on May 1, 2009 at El Sombrero's Restaurant. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Berkmoes, to table the pursuit and institution of billing of various department services. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the negative impact on the residents if the policy took effect. Assistant Chief Wisner discussed the billing for inspection services that are done in surrounding communities and the research that is being done. The Board directed Chief Clark to continue to gather information and submit them to the Board.

MOTION: by Berkmoes, seconded by Nevelos, to approve the revised entry level employment application. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Berkmoes, to adopt a system awarding current Southington volunteer firefighters up to five additional points on entry level firefighter testing. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Berkmoes, seconded by Longo, to requesting a Special Appropriation of \$88,000 to the Overtime account. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Berkmoes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Sherman, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners