

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Daly called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on January 15, 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.

Chairman Daly welcomed Robert Berkmoes to the Board of Fire Commissioners. Commissioner Berkmoes expressed enthusiasm in joining the Board.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to table the election of officers. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to accept the minutes of December 10, 2008, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried with four ayes and one abstention.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nevelos, to accept the minutes of January 7, 2009, special meeting as circulated. Motion carried with three ayes and two abstentions.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nevelos, to approve the payment of bills for December in the amount of \$54,205.30. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Chief Clark attended the monthly Department Heads meeting, Ambulance Review Committee meeting, and the Town Safety meeting. During the Ambulance Review Committee meeting Director Chuck Motes asked Chief Clark to investigate applying to the state to have additional crossovers installed on the highway.
- Wolcott Fire School met with Captain Mello to discuss the rate increase for training. The school is in financial trouble and will not be open for classes until April.
- The Town Council presented retired Captain Dave Mikosz with a proclamation on Monday, January 12, 2009.
- Chief Clark attended the Board of Finance meeting last night. A special appropriation request was submitted by the Finance Director to cover shortfalls in the negotiated salaries account.
- Chief Clark attended the Connecticut Fire Chief's meeting on Tuesday. He was able to speak with other chiefs with combination companies about how they handle various issues.

- A representative from Telrepcos was in and additional Tough Books were ordered.
- The shifts are in the process of cleaning and revamping the lower storage areas at Headquarters.
- Firehouse is in the process of downloading converted files to our server. Tomorrow the work will be viewed to see if it is compatible with our needs.
- Chief Clark has met with all the volunteer companies at various times throughout the month to discuss the IRS investigation.
- Information about retired FP Ken Bell's party will be forwarded to the commissioners.
- The Polar Plunge is on Saturday, January 17, 2009.
- The first CERT graduation class will be held in the Town Council Chambers on Wednesday, January 21, 2009.
- The town manager has approved sending the officers to the annual NFA Officers Weekend in Maryland.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending awarding points for active Southington volunteer firefighters during the entry level Firefighter/EMT testing and charging a nonrefundable \$50.00 fee per application.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the transfer of \$1,500 into the Uniforms & Shoes account.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Captain Al Urso, Jr. of Company 5 asked that the possible solutions that are being looked at for volunteer reimbursements be put in writing for the officers to bring back to their members. Chairman Daly went over the series of events since the IRS audit began. Chairman Daly assured him that the administration and the Board of Fire Commissioners are standing behind the volunteers. Chief Clark agreed to have something in writing next week illustrating the three possible avenues he has looked into. Chief Clark expressed his desire to meet with the officers to discuss the issues and his openness to any alternatives they may have discovered. Chairman Daly let the audience know that the outcome of the audit is still unknown and the freezing of any reimbursement is to acknowledge to the IRS that the town is cooperating with the investigation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Budget was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Berkmoes, to approve the concept of awarding additional points to the entry level Firefighter/EMT testing for active Southington volunteer firefighters, with definitions to be discussed at a later date, and charging a nonrefundable \$50.00 fee per application. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Sherman, to approve the transfer request of \$1,500 to the Uniform & Shoes account. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Berkmoes, 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 at 8:41 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel matters were discussed.

Return to regular session at 9:37 p.m.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Sherman, to increase the Chief's salary by 3½% to a figure of \$97,963 for the fiscal year 09-10. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to increase the Assistant Chief's salary by 2% to a figure of \$92,430 the fiscal year 09-10. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to adjourn to the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Sherman, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners