

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Daly called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on May 14, 2009, to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioners Daly, Sherman, and Nevelos were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner. Commissioner Longo arrived late. Commissioner Berkmoes was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nevelos, to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2009, special meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nevelos, to approve the payment of bills for April in the amount of \$23,675.50. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- An agreement with the union on the position of Deputy Fire Marshal has been reached.
- Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney Sciota included the department in the snow plowing bid process for all town departments for the 09-10 winter season. The department's contract was awarded to two contractors at a 'per inch rate' rather than a total rate for the season. Martin Construction will service Headquarters and Company 3. Landscape Unlimited will service Company 2 and Company 5. The sanding will be extra.
- A meeting to review the first five sections of the SOP Manual was held.
- A representative from GIS Software met with Chief Clark to discuss their company's products for the laptops in the engines. Other software packages are being researched. The Water Department is also looking into software that the Fire Department may be interested in and the departments would share the cost.
- A STEPS summit was held at Slopers.
- The Ride for Justin was held.
- Chief Clark attended the Town Council's public hearing on the 09-10 budget. As discussed in the April meeting, Chief Clark had gone to request restoration of items deemed necessary by the Board. By request of the Deputy Town Manager, Chief Clark did not speak during open session. He later scheduled a meeting with Town Manager Weichsel and Town Council Chairman Barry. During the meeting it was made clear that the two items requested, the new vehicle and the renovations to Company 2's kitchen would not be reinstated.
- The monthly Department Heads meeting was held.
- MMP hearing was held. The issue was settled with no impact to the department.

- Chief Clark and Assistant Chief Wisner attended the Task Force 55 meeting. While at the meeting, Chief Clark met with Chief Carr of New Britain. Chief Carr discussed a Mobile Live Burn Grant he is applying for and would like to include Southington. The unit would be available for Southington to train with.

Commissioner Longo arrived at 7:42 p.m.

- Chief Clark attended the Pandemic Flu tabletop exercise at the Aqua Turf. The exercise was targeted to the school system and how they would handle the crisis.
- Chief Clark attended FF Crandall's graduation from the Fire Academy on May 13, 2009. A pinning ceremony is being put together by Assistant Chief Wisner.
- The second class for the Southington CERT program has begun. The last class graduated 30 members.
- Firematic has installed the Hurst tool streamline fittings.
- L2 is out of service having the hydraulic lines replaced by Firematic. When L2 is returned it will remain out of service to have the gas tank replaced.
- A continuing problem with L1 has been resolved. An electrical short was found and felt to have caused the bedding problems that have occurred in past few months.
- EVOC training was held for all the department officers. It was well received and another class is being planned for the new fiscal year.
- ICDFM Casarella has completed an Advanced Fire Investigation course.
- Chief Clark has been asked to write a monthly article in the Observer.
- The fuel tanks at Headquarters have passed the cathodic protection test. The service company has warned that it most likely will not pass next year and the tanks will need to be replaced, which will include digging up the new driveway to access them.
- The lines on the back parking lot will be done this month.
- Transfer requests will be made in the near future.
- Chief Clark is hoping that the original need of \$88,000 in the Overtime Account will be reduced.
- Chief Clark would like to a large turnout for the Memorial Day parade.
- Chief Clark would like to attend the NEIAFC conference in Springfield in June. He is not planning to attend the IAFC in Dallas, but is looking into the Symposium in the Sun in Florida that is focused on combination departments.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Captain Peter Kurtz spoke on the progress of the Southington CERT team:

- The second class started on 5/13/09 with an anticipated graduation before 7/1/09. The grant for class expenses is \$1,820, with a cash advance of \$1,420.
- The class has 30 people enrolled with two students from Bristol and one from New Britain.
- The 28 graduated team members have been meeting every first Wednesday of the month at Company 5, with an average attendance of 18.
- Team members have participated in several exercises throughout the state.
- There are several members who are licensed in HAM radio operations and the goal is to get ten more members licensed before the end of the spring.
- Officers of the team consist of Captain Edward Janelle, Lieutenant Nancy Voisine and Lieutenant David Brennan.
- A mission statement has been completed with a special goal to be a quality resource for persons with disabilities and special needs.
- Work is being done to set up a written SOP for the team members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nevelos, to adopted the Rules and Regulation changes recommended by Chief Clark and their location in the SOP Manual. Motion carried with three ayes and one abstention.

NEW BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS:

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Nevelos, that the Board adopts Consent Items 4.A. through 4.E. as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

- A. Company 1’s request to collect, package and ship care packages to the deployed troops.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

- B. Appointment of FF Robert Hunt to the position of Inspector Firefighter with a start date to be determined.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

- C. Headquarters personnel’s request to conduct the annual “Fill the Boot” campaign this summer.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

- D. Company 5's request to hold an All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Supper on Saturday, June 13, 2009 from 4-7 PM.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

- E. Company 3's request to hold a Strawberry Shortcake Sale on June 8, 2008.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request.

ACTION: Approved.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, 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 8:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel matters were discussed.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Sherman, to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Sherman, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners