

SEP 26 2012

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

930 A 11
Clark

Chairperson Sherman called the meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Fire Headquarters on September 20, 2012, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Sherman, Longo, Nevelos, Dandrow and Baker were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Assistant Chief Wisner.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Manager Brumback discussed a proposal from ICMA to conduct an audit of the Fire Department. ICMA would conduct a very thorough study of all aspects of the Department and compile a report based on the Board's goals and objectives. Information would be gathered from reports and through visits to the Department. Town Manager Brumback has worked with ICMA in previous positions and have found the committee highly professional and educated. Depending on the outcome of this study, ICMA may be hired to study other Town Departments.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Dandrow, to add item 3.B. AFG grant proposal of \$53,100 for an air compressor and item 12.E. as action on the AFG grant proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.):

Chairman Sherman discussed the grant awarded to the Department for \$51,300 to purchase an air compressor. The grant would need a cost share amount of \$5,700 from the Town of Southington. The grant would enable the Fire Department to replace the existing fifteen year old compressor/filling station that is failing.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Baker, to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2012 regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Baker, to accept the minutes of the August 22, 2012 special meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Baker, to approve the payment of bills for August 2012 in the amount of \$87,158.71. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending Company 3's request to hold a pancake breakfast on December 2, 2012.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending Company 3's request to appoint FF David Munson to 2nd lieutenant.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending Company 3's request to appoint FF Christopher Martin to custodian.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the acceptance of the AFG for an air compressor.

Chief's Report:

- The on-duty firefighters delivered donated back packs to the Board of Education from the Social Services Department and received great press on it.
- Research on the options for graphics, emergency lighting, radio placement, and a command box for the new car three is being done by Captain Zygmunt.
- Firefighter Andrew Polzella was sworn in on August 27, 2012 and started the Connecticut Fire Academy recruit class on August 31, 2012.
- A meeting was held with representatives of Mobile Tech, the dispatching software company used at Dispatch, to discuss issues with their software interfacing with Firehouse Software. CAD Monitor Software has been installed and will interface with Mobile Tech to provide the Department with multiple options, such as more information downloaded from each dispatch and real-time viewable dispatches.
- The new car three was delivered from Crowley Motors. The vehicle is at Sign Pro having a reflective graphics package installed.
- A meeting was held with Fred Rogers, from the Water Department, to discuss fire hydrant inspections and flow testing for both public and private hydrants. We are in agreement that the Water Department will continue to handle testing and maintenance of town owned hydrants. They are still in the process of determining fees for inspections, flowing and flow testing of private hydrants. Also discussed were color schemes for hydrants that follow NFPA standards, with the exception that all hydrant barrels owned by Southington will be painted green with corresponding colors for hydrant flow. Private hydrant barrels will be painted with red with corresponding NFPA flow colors on the caps.
- Chief Clark attended the Health Awareness Day on August 27, 2012 at Southington High School.
- Chief Clark and FF Richard Jones met with Kyle Skene and Lisa McMahan from Concentra to discuss proposals for the fitness evaluation program for paid personnel per current contract language. Both Chief Clark and FF Jones agree that Concentra would be the best choice for evaluating out of compliance firefighters. Chief Clark and FF Jones have been working together on this project since the new contract was signed. Research was done and found that there were not many qualified companies that perform these types of evaluations. The other company

that was considered was Medworks, out of Bristol, who quoted the cost of \$495 per evaluation which was cost prohibitive and also required the firefighters to go to their facilities. Concentra's fee is \$100 per evaluation, and they feel they can do one firefighter per hour. If the firefighter only requires a BMI, the cost would be less. Chief Clark and FF Jones feel that scheduling costs can be kept down with in house evaluations.

- Chief Clark attended the Chamber of Commerce breakfast where Curtis Robinson received a community award for his support of the Bread for Life's initiative providing breakfast for all needy school children in Southington.
- Chief Clark attended the Department Heads Meeting.
- Chief Clark met with retired Chief John Walsh to discuss the sale of Engine 52. After his inspection, he felt that the market value of that truck would be about \$20-\$25,000, if a buyer can be found. Chief Walsh also said that with the current market it may take a while for the truck to sell.
- Captain Scott DiBattista has put together a monthly training summary report that will be submitted to the Board in their monthly meeting packets. The report is being compiled to keep the Board apprised of the training status throughout the Department, and to keep them apprised of the success of the probationary firefighter program on a monthly basis.
- Chief Clark discussed that the Department is continuing with its overtime replacement policy by maintaining a six man shift 24/7 and a seven man shift Monday through Friday days. The Department has one firefighter who has been out since the end of May and has no definite return date; there has been a considerable amount of replacement overtime used for that position. Furthermore, Chief Clark recently received a tentative, verbal notification that two more career members will be retiring right after the first of the year. Though we have a list for new firefighters, their positions will be vacant while they attend the Connecticut Fire Academy recruit class. Both of these circumstances will drive up the overtime expenses significantly. Chief Clark asked for the Board's position on this issue.

Chairman Sherman agreed with Chief Clark's decision to continue with overtime replacement and feels that the Department could not afford to decrease its ability to respond to incidents.

- The annual Apple Harvest parade is scheduled for September 30, 2012 at 2 p.m. Retired Deputy Fire Marshal/Captain Inspector Neil Casarella will be the grand marshal.
- There will be a blood drive at Headquarters tomorrow, September 21, 2012.
- Chief Clark reported that the Truck Committee went out for the final inspection of the new engine earlier in the week. They went through a 22 page checklist. The engine is expected in Connecticut by the end of next week. The engine design was purpose-built to be rugged.

Chairman Sherman thanked the Truck Committee members for all their work through the three years of their research. The engine will be a tribute to the committee members who went above and beyond.

Commissioner Baker asked about the seminar on Sikh and Muslim cultural awareness and if it was open to all Department members. Chief Clark reported that because of the short notice only the on duty shifts went. Commissioner Baker asked if the Department was planning to hold another seminar, and Chief Clark reported that the speakers were not local, but he would see if a local representative would be available to hold a seminar.

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

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of August 2012:
 1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 70
 2. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 156
 3. Damage to Property Involved in Fire - \$300
 4. Damage to Motor Vehicles involved in fire - \$19,650
 5. Other losses - \$750
 6. Total - \$20,700
 7. Total units responded were - 480

- The State Fire Marshal fall classes have started and members have begun taking classes to keep their certification.
- School inspections were started earlier in August this year so the violations could be corrected before the start of school.
- The Municipal Center, 200 North Main St., has a temporary certificate of occupancy.
- There have been multiple fire alarms at Lincoln College. The college is trying to correct issues and adopt policies to reduce the number of calls.

COMMISSION COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Baker thanked the on duty shift that was at St. Dominic's Church picnic.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Art Cyr, 103 Berlin Ave., discussed the project of private hydrant testing. He feels that advertising on Channel 14, through the Town Clerk's Office, would be the most effective way to reach the residents who are in need of the service.

Ronald Stevens, 154 Rahlene Dr., spoke on an issue that occurred on September 28, 2011 near Ideal Forge. The incident was in response to a white substance in the storm drain from West Center Street to Ideal Forge. Mr. Stevens, a former Water Pollution Control employee who responded to the

scene, feels that a policy should be adopted and training for handling similar calls in the future would be in the best interest of the town.

Lt. Douglas Roy asked for a copy of the ICMA proposal that was discussed by Town Manager Brumback.

OLD BUSINESS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Longo, to approve Town Manager Brumback's hiring of ICMA for an audit of the Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Longo, to approve Company 3's request to hold a pancake breakfast on December 2, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Longo, to approve Company 3's request to appoint FF David Munson to 2nd lieutenant. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Dandrow, seconded by Longo, to approve Company 3's request to appoint FF Christopher Martin to custodian. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Dandrow, to approve the acceptance of the AFG for an air compressor. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Nevelos, seconded by Dandrow, 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 6:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel matters were discussed.

Returned to regular session at 7:35 p.m.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Nevelos, to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously



Mary Baker, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners