

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MAR 08 2013

9:35 AM

Chairperson Baker called the special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on February 27, 2013, to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Sherman, Longo, Dandrow, Baker and Bunko were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of the Chief and Asst. Chief to conduct interviews for the positions of captain, lieutenant and an entry level firefighter at 5:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 6:50 p.m.

Returned to Open Session at 7 p.m.

Chairperson Baker presented retired Commissioner Guss Nevelos a helmet in appreciation of his years of service.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Bunko, to accept the minutes of January 16, 2013 special meeting as circulated. Motion carried with three ayes and two abstentions.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Bunko, to accept the minutes of January 17, 2013 regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Sherman, to approve the payment of bills for January in the amount of \$35,286.82. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the approval of FF Gary Parker's six-month leave of absence request.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending a special appropriation request of \$40,000 for the Vehicle Maintenance account.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending canceling the March 21, 2013 meeting and having a special meeting on March 28, 2013.

Chief's Report:

- Chief Clark, along with twelve members of the Department participated in the annual YMCA Polar Plunge.
- Chief Clark attended an Emergency Planning meeting held by Shane Lockwood, the Director of Health, in the Department training room.
- The first draft of the ICMA Data Study was received and reviewed. An email was sent with corrections to the data that were found during the review.
- Commissioner Baker and Chief Clark met with Town Manager Brumback to discuss the Department's 2013-2014 budget request. After review, Town Manager Brumback's recommendation to the Board of Finance is to cut the Department's request by \$91,123.
- Don Stevens Tire was inspected by the Department in response to a blight complaint. The investigation found tire storage above the permitted amount. The large quantity of tires poses a fire and environmental hazard. The DEEP was notified and inspected the site. A company representative agreed to clean up the tires and progress has been made. The business will continue to be monitored for compliance.
- Chief Clark attended the Chamber of Commerce's State of the Town meeting.
- Chief Clark attended Company 5's retirement gathering for past captain Al Urso Sr.
- Ken Laine, the installer of the fiber optic line to Headquarters, met with Chief Clark. The installation is being funded by the State of Connecticut. Installation should start sometime this week.
- Chief Clark attended the Ambulance Review Committee meeting. There are a lot of changes being made in the administration of AMR as it reorganizes.
- A Power Point presentation on the Department's 2013-2014 budget request was shown to the Board of Finance.
- CERT graduation is March 20, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. There are seventeen members graduating.
- Company 3 will host a Zumba fundraiser for Relay for Life on March 22, 2013.
- Retirement tickets for Captains Folcik and Kurtz are available in the reception office.
- A late request from Company 1 member FF Jonathan Macalizzi for a leave of absence to attend military reserve training.
- The Town website Board of Fire Commissioners meeting date link is now linked to the Fire Department's Board of Fire Commissioners website page. The Department's page is kept up to date by the administration.
- Chief Clark attended training on Project Planning in Hartford yesterday. The training was presented by F. Pryor Seminars

- Captain Kurtz will be picking up 600 backpacks to be given out to 5th graders in town. The backpacks are part of the STEP program run by the State of Connecticut. The backpacks will have emergency supplies such as a blanket and flashlight.

Chairperson Baker asked if the STEP program would be available to both public and parochial schools. Chief Clark reported, yes, that the program is open to both.

Chairperson Baker asked Chief Clark to summarize the Department's storm activities. Chief Clark discussed the unit response of a plow, brush truck, and AMR to medical calls. There were many times when the plow was trying to clear the way for AMR and the men assigned to the brush truck would forge through the snow to the patient and begin care until AMR was able to gain access. Chief Clark reported on the heroic acts that many of the Department members did to respond to the scene. AMR appreciated all the help they received from the Department.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, 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 January 2013:

1. Fire Marshal's inspections – 56
2. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 188
3. Damage to property involved in fire - \$297,000
4. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$0.00
5. Other losses - \$50,950
6. Total - \$347,950
7. Total units responded were - 591

The following are the significant fire incidents for January:

- Lincoln College fire
- House fire
- Group home fire

The following are current plan reviews:

- Homewood Suites
- Middle School Project
- Center Street restaurant
- Queen Street pizzeria
- Marion Avenue bakery

MOTION: by Dandrow, seconded by Longo, to accept the Assistant Chief's report. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Sherman discussed Town Manager Brumback's budget cuts and felt they were fair. Chairperson Baker felt that most of the cuts were items discussed in the meeting with Town Manager Brumback, where others were surprising.

Chairperson Baker thanked the members who helped create the Power Point presentation for the Board of Finance. The members are Captain DiBattista, Sharon DellaVecchia and Maureen Frazier.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM FIREFIGHTERS AND THE PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Baker thanked all interviewees and said that they all did a great job and what a difficult choice it is. The Board appreciates their willingness to continue investing time into their fire career.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Sherman, to offer Lt. William Higgins the position of captain. Motion carried with three ayes and two nays.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Sherman, to offer FF Glenn Dube the position of lieutenant. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Sherman, to offer the position of entry level firefighter to Daniel Comen pending passing the Department physical. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Sherman, to approve FF Gary Parker's request for a six-month leave of absence. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to approve a special appropriation request of \$40,000 for the Vehicle Maintenance account. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Bunko, to approve canceling the March 21, 2013 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting and amend Chief Clark's special meeting to March 20, 2013 at 5 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Dandrow, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark, Assistant Chief Wisner, and Maureen Frazier to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


Contract negotiations were discussed.

Maureen Frazier left Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

Returned to regular session at 8:05 p.m.

No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Michael Bunko, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners