

TOWN OF SOUTHTON  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Baker called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on June 20, 2013, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Sherman, Longo, Dandrow, Baker and Bunko were present. Chief Clark was also in attendance. Assistant Chief Wisner was absent.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Longo, to accept the minutes of May 23, 2013 special meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to approve the payment of bills for May in the amount of \$34,748.00. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Dandrow, to add item 9.E., Action on the Incentive Plan distribution of \$437.95 for a full share and \$218.98 for a half share. Motion carried unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending FP Steve Coull's request for a six-month leave of absence.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending David Rodriguez's request for a one-year leave of absence.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending putting the 1989 Maximum Pumper out to bid.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending approval of the revised Rules and Regulations.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the annual Incentive Plan distribution of \$437.95 for a full share and \$218.98 for a half share

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- The annual SCBA flow testing was done under the supervision and coordination of Captain Saucier.
- Members of the Department and their children participated in "Remember 26," an event in remembrance of the Sandy Hook tragedy. The members helped plant a butterfly bush on Rails to Trails.

- The voice mail box system was hacked into and calls were made to Granada. The system has been secured by limiting voicemail features and a list was generated of extensions that do not have a security code.
- A statewide emergency drill was held today. The drill simulated an ice storm in Torrington. The EOC was located in the Headquarters training room.
- The Board of Finance requests were approved last night. They did ask for questions on the need for attendance at the Firehouse Software conference and if other options were available. Town Manager Brumback informed the Board that the conference was the only option for training, which is held annually.
- The Fire Department's fee schedule is being instituted in phases. The Department is working with the Finance Department to create proper cash handling procedures in association with the fees. First to be instituted will be charges for plan review.
- The Department marched in the Memorial Day parade with a good turnout of members.
- The Probationary Firefighter Program's next class is scheduled to start in the beginning of July. There are two definite participants with three others who are in their final stages of acceptance.
- L-1 is in the shop for repairs to its alternators
- View Permit software classes are being held at Headquarters on June 21, 2013 and Tuesday, June 25, 2013. The software will be used in all town Departments issuing permits and will allow the users to know the status of current projects in town.
- Department officers were invited to attend the New England Chiefs Exposition in Springfield MA on June 21, 2013 and June 22, 2013 with Chief Clark.
- The old riding lawnmower has been donated to the Meriden Quarter Midget Racing Club through FF John Aldieri. The mower was in need of extensive repairs which were deemed more expensive than what the mower was worth. The Department has bought a replacement.
- Company 2's 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant, Brian Badgley, was introduced to the Board.
- The overtime account will remain in the black for the end of the fiscal year.
- The Department Heads meeting was held on June 5, 2013. Copies of the minutes were given out to the Board.

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

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Clark read the report in Assistant Chief Wisner's absence.

Activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of May 2013:

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 92
2. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 172

3. Damage to property involved in fire - \$291,000
4. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$10,000
5. Other losses - \$69,000
6. Total - \$370,000
7. Total units responded - 644

The Fire Marshal's Bureau has received multiple plans and is keeping on top of them. The middle school renovation plans are a work in progress. The officers are encouraged to drive by the schools that are being renovated daily to keep apprised of the access changes.

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

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT:

Chief Clark reported that Captain DiBattista has attended multiple classes in June. One class in particular was a class on firefighter rehabilitation. The class covered multiple studies of exposure to firefighters at a fire scene. Some of the studies have been done based on time spent in the fire and the SCBA usage.

Chief Clark also reported that on Monday night mandatory is training being done with the on duty crew. He discussed this was part of the ICMA recommendation that has been instituted.

MOTION: by Sherman, seconded by Longo, to accept the Training Division Report. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Bunko encouraged members to attend the June 24, 2013 Town Council meeting. The meeting agenda has a vote for charter revisions that would eliminate the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Board of Police Commissioners to advisory committees. This change would give direct authority to the Town Manager. Commissioner Bunko feels this change would dilute the authority of the public. He feels there is an agenda that is unknown to him, and the ramifications will be felt throughout the organization. Commissioner Bunko will continue to speak against this proposal, even if the Town Council does pass the Charter Revision Committee's recommendations, to educate the voters before they go to the polls. Commissioner Sherman feels that this action should not reflect on any member of the Department. He feels that the actions by the Board have been correct. Commissioner Dandrow stated she is also against the revision and has always been in favor of public autonomy, not dictatorship. Commissioner Longo feels that all the members of the Board bring many years of experience to the Department, along with being town residents.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM FIREFIGHTERS AND THE PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

ICMA Study – Chief Clark discussed the progress made by the teams. He also discussed the time line for the completion of the Strategic Plan, which is estimated to be 18 months. Also discussed was the survey that the company members completed to determine the willingness to be a part of the duty crew from 16:00-6:00, 365 days a year. The survey showed that there was a shortage of officer, driver, and EMT support for the recommendation. More research will be done before coming to a final decision on this item. An option that would allow members to remain at home, but sign in as available to respond is being researched. Plans to put the progress of the recommendations on the Department website page will be done in the near future.

Chairperson Baker and Chief Clark may meet with the Board of Finance during their July meeting to discuss the ICMA recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Longo, to approve FP Steve Coull's request for a six-month leave of absence. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Baker asked Chief Clark how Company 3 would handle calls when fire police were needed. Chief Clark reported that dispatch would have to tone out another company's fire police members.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Dandrow, to approve FF David Rodriguez's request for a one-year leave of absence. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Longo, to approve putting the 1989 Maximum Pumper out to bid. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board agreed to vote on item 9.E. before voting on item 9.D.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Longo, to approve the annual Incentive Plan distribution of \$437.95 for a full share and \$218.98 for a half share. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Longo, to table motion on the revised Rules and Regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Baker discussed a few grammar changes she wanted changed.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Sherman, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 6:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Returned to regular session at 7:52 p.m.

No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Michael Bunko, Secretary  
Board of Fire Commissioners