

APR 09 2015

9:45 AM

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

By Kathy Larkin
Town Clerk

Chairperson Baker called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on March 19, 2015, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Baker, Bunko, Stanforth, Longo and Kanute were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Longo, to approve the minutes of February 19, 2015 meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko seconded by Longo, to approve payment of bills for February 2015 in the amount of \$25,271.35. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report: None

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- The IT Department has made progress in preparing the department for the new phone system that includes voice over IP
 - Progress has been made on the Nextgen Software project that will be used in dispatch and for the onboard computers. Captain Donnelly has dedicated many hours to this project for the department.
 - Captain Higgins' retirement party was well attended.
 - Town Engineer Keith Hayden and Chief Clark reviewed the water damage in the dispatch area at Company 3 and determined the cause to be ice dams on the roof. A company has been hired to steam off the ice dams in the problem areas. A permanent solution to prevent future problems is being researched and could include installing heat tape on the roof and gutters.
 - The cost to repair the damage from the water leaks is also being researched. Repairs will include replacement of the sheet rock and drop ceiling.
 - Quotes for the SCBA replacement project have come in and there are two options that are currently being looked at:
 1. Stay with the current bottle size and pressure
 2. Increase the pressure in the bottles and reduce the size, creating a safer platform for firefighters to operate under
- Chief Clark is pursuing different finance options to support the SCBA replacement project.
- Rescue 1 is still in the body shop having warrantee work done. The body shop has completed the repairs from the motor vehicle accident.

- Chief Clark has been continuing to check on the progress of Engine 11. It is estimated to be back in the middle of April.
- Engine 22 t has had in excess of 50 man-hours to repair multiple issues.
- Engine 21 was in for normal maintenance and it was determined that the rear four tires needed replacement.
- Brush 2 had its tires replaced after company members reported shaking in the front end.
- Letters have been sent out to all volunteer members that did not comply with training, ride time or minimum response requirements. The company officers were given the opportunity to recommend how their members were handled.

Vice Chairperson Bunko asked about the status of the fire inspector testing. Chief Clark reported that the candidates will have a final test on March 28, 2015, and the top three will be ready for interviews at April's Board of Fire Commissioners meeting. Chief Clark reported that there are five applicants and that all are certified fire inspectors for the State of Connecticut.

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

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

Activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of February 2015:

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 9
2. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 180
3. Damage to property involved in fire - \$310,000
4. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$20,525
5. Other losses - \$220,000
6. Total - \$550,525
7. Total units responded were - 537

The following are fire incidents with significant damage:

- Southington Auto Sales – Building fire with \$470,000 worth of damage
- Belrose Ave. – Kitchen fire with \$60,000 worth of damage

Assistant Chief Wisner also reported the following projects that the Bureau has been working on:

- 49 DePaolo Drive has modified their original two building plans into one building
- Crystal Bee's project on Spring St. continues to progress
- The Bureau continues to monitor the progress at the middle schools
- Winter Grove Apartments on Darling St. is completed

Assistant Chief Wisner also reported activities that have occupied the Bureau's time:

- DFM Ballard and Inspector Hunt have been busy with EMT recertification online classes
- All members have attended continuing education needed to maintain their fire inspector certification
- The weather has impacted the members ability to do inspections throughout the month
- The Bureau has begun inspections of hotels, motels, and gas stations

Vice Chairperson Bunko asked how involved the Fire Department would be in the demolition on High St. Chief Clark reported that he anticipates multiple calls for smells after certain areas are cleaned out but they will not be regularly on scene unless needed.

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

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Vice Chairperson Bunko stated how he and other members of the Board attended multiple department functions throughout the month and how nice they were. These events included Captain Higgins' retirement party, the Police and Firemen's Ball and Company 2's Irish Night.

Commissioner Stanforth asked about the new program that is being developed for new hires. Chief Clark reported that the program is more of a formal checklist to make sure that the new firefighter is trained in all areas needed.

Commissioner Stanforth asked about the uniform options being considered that were mentioned in the Morning Briefing email. Chief Clark reported that long sleeve polo's are being considered for line personnel.

Commissioner Stanforth asked about the CRR program. Chief Clark reported that there are several events planned to highlight the program and he expects an upswing in appointments after them. Chief Clark also reported that the inventory for detectors is running low and that Captain Heath is in the process of writing a grant for more.

Chairperson Baker wanted to thank FF Edwin Crandall and Captain Thomas Donnelly for the nice sendoff they gave Captain Higgins.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Art Cyr questioned if the department is monitoring the increase in medical calls since AMR is transporting most of their patients out of town. Mr. Cyr also asked about the staffing and vehicles used to respond to a medical call. Chief Clark reported that the response to a medical call is a rescue truck and two to three

firefighter/EMTs. Mr. Cyr suggested that the department should respond in a smaller vehicle. Chief Clark stated that because of the limited number of personnel on duty he could not risk breaking up a fire crew from the apparatus for medical call. Chairperson Baker agreed that the department would compare the years to see if there has been an increase in medical calls, but the issue may be better suited to the Ambulance Review Committee. Chief Clark invited Mr. Cyr to come and meet with him and he would be happy to go over their dispatching protocols. Commissioner Kanute discussed the way a medical call comes in and that there is a high percentage that the Fire Department is dispatched to that the tools to gain access may be needed. Mr. Cyr stated that he feels using the rescue trucks was a misuse of equipment. Commissioner Stanforth reiterated that the issue would be looked into.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

SCBA Replacement Options – Chief Clark discussed the lease purchase quote he had received and the different options it offered. The Board discussed their desire to have the vendor come to a meeting for a demonstration of their product. Chief Clark will meet with Town Manager Brumback to see if he would be supportive of a lease purchase or if there is another option.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Longo, to approve requesting a transfer of \$2,810 to the Snow Plowing account. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Longo, to approve requesting a transfer of \$1,000 to the Fuel Pump Repair account. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Bunko, to approve Chief Clark attending the NEIAFC May 5-7, 2015, sending DC DiBattista and Captain Heath to the Firehouse Software Conference September 22-25, 2015, Chief Clark attending FRI conference August 26-29, 2015, and Chief Clark attending the VCOSS conference November 12-15, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stanforth asked how the two officers would benefit from the conference. Chief Clark reported that Deputy Chief DiBattista would gain knowledge in the software's capabilities for training and it would aid in Captain Heath's grant writing endeavors.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Kanute, to appoint FF Christopher Martin as acting second lieutenant of Company 3 pending his acceptance of a training proposal and his completion of Fire Instructor I. Motion carried with four ayes and one nay.

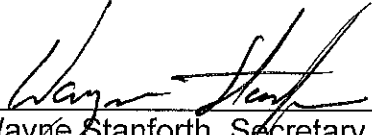
MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Longo, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Return to regular session

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Longo, adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.



Wayne Stanforth, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners