

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chairperson Bunko called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on June 18, 2015, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Bunko, Stanforth, Longo and Kanute were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Assistant Chief Wisner. Chairperson Baker was absent.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Stanforth, to accept the minutes of May 21, 2015, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried with three ayes and one abstention.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Kanute, to approve payment of bills for May 2015 in the amount of \$40,035.92. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending a special appropriation and transfers to the Overtime Pay account with the exact amount determined by the last payroll of the fiscal year.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending on a transfer of \$12,000 to the Vehicle Repair account.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- The department was contacted by DEEP to investigate a complaint at the Bio 1 plant. A list of concerns was then compiled and reported to the owners at a meeting held by Deputy Town Manager Mark Sciota and other town officials. Since the meeting, all hazardous conditions have been addressed.
- Human Resource Generalist Theresa Buchanan met with career members to discuss the new HSA health plan.
- Members of Headquarters are researching extrication equipment and meeting with possible vendors. Tools from TNT were tested at Chuck and Eddies and other companies are being contacted to schedule demonstrations.
- Chief Clark reported how appreciative the department is for Chuck and Eddies continued support in providing training props.
- Northwest Communications, our radio maintenance company, has been sold to Northeast Communications.
- The department photographer, Ann Dyer, took file photos of members who were interested in participating.

- Chief Clark has been meeting with the Inspection Bureau to look at ways to streamline some of their operations. A few of the areas being looked at are utilizing Firehouse Software and working with other town departments to adopt a town wide occupancy addressing process. Another area being looked at is creating better communication between town departments to share information on occupancy changes.
- Inspector Chozick has been a great addition to the Inspection Bureau.
- Firehouse Software representative Tom Pond was hired to make changes in the payroll module and evaluate our present inspection module.
- Hose testing has been completed. All hose has been inspected and the dates for next year's testing have been scheduled.
- Pump testing was completed today and all pumps have passed.
- Ladder testing is scheduled for July.
- Three members of the Truck Committee will fly out to Sutphen's plant in Dublin, Ohio, for a mid-build inspection of the new engine on June 29, 2015.
- Promotional testing for the rank of captain and lieutenant has been scheduled and the reading list has been released. The written test will be held on September 15 and the oral test will be held on September 18.
- This year's budget is just about closed and areas available to transfers are being identified. The funds available will be used to offset the amount needed to be appropriated for the overtime and vehicle repair accounts.
- Youth Honor Day was held on June 2, 2015. Allie Brown, a senior from Southington High School was chief for the day and accompanied the on duty shift during her tour of duty.
- Chief Clark met with a member of the volunteer force who is interested in starting an explorers program. Chief Clark supports the proposal and will keep the Board apprised of its progress.

Commissioner Stanforth expressed that the Board is in favor of an explorers program. Chief Clark reported that the program was proposed a few years ago and there was a lot of interest from the public, unfortunately, members of the committee were not successful in bringing it to fruition.

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 May 2015:

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 82
2. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 204
3. Damage to property involved in fire - \$7,000

4. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$9,700
5. Other losses - \$1,500
6. Total - \$18,200
7. Total units responded were - 633

Assistant Chief Wisner reported that there were no big fires in the past month, but the number of motor vehicle accidents rose. The Bureau continues to inspect the middle school projects, which are close to completion. Plans continue to come in but are smaller projects. The new inspector, Inspector Chozick, has been a positive addition to the Bureau. His first assignment is inspecting businesses on Queen St. from the north to the south.

Commissioner Stanforth asked about concerns of brush fires during the dry period in May. Assistant Chief Wisner reported that the department was fortunate not to have any large incidents.

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

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Stanforth asked for a status update on the fire alarm monitoring's retirement. Captain Donnelly reported from the audience, that so far one private business has changed over to a private company. Chief Clark reported that the notices have gone out with requests for notification once a private monitoring company was in place. Second notices will go out in September to remind them of the December 31, 2015 deadline for private businesses.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Stanforth, to accept the minutes of April 16, 2015, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried with three ayes and one abstention.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Longo, to approve a special appropriation and transfer requests to the Overtime Pay account in the amount determined by the final payroll in June. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Longo, to approve a transfer of \$12,000 to the Vehicle Repair. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Kanute, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark

to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 6:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Return to regular session

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.



Wayne Stanforth, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners