

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Baker called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Company 3 on October 15, 2015, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Baker, Bunko, Stanforth, Longo and Kanute were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Assistant Chief Wisner.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Longo, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark, Assistant Chief Wisner, IAFF Local 2033 President Harold Ballard, IAFF Local 2033 Secretary John Solury and UPFFA Staff Representative Mike Spoldi, to discuss a grievance, at 6:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Return to regular session at 6:12 p.m.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Kanute, to accept the minutes of June 18, 2015, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Kanute, to approve payment of bills for August 2015 in the amount of \$44,370.51. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report: None

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief Clark reported the new engine assignments:
 - The 2012 Sutphen is now E-12
 - The 1999 Pierce is now E-31
 - The 1998 Pierce is now E-52
- Chief Clark reported the following apparatus status report:
 - The new 2015 Sutphen engine has been put into service.
 - L-1 was out of service for a failed air cooler in the turbo that was repaired by Aszklar's.
 - Aszklar had to replace the rims on L-2.
 - Cummins repaired a bearing on R-1's generator. A bill was received for the repair and Chief Clark is contesting the amount because he feels that some of the cost should be covered under warranty.
 - The specification for the shift commander's vehicle has been done.

- C-7 needs new tires.
- Chief Clark met with a representative from Cummins Generators and Keith Hayden, to review the specifications for the new generator bid.
- The new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) were put into service.
- Richford Fire Department, a small town in Vermont, requested 16 of the old SCBAs. They have been prepared for the department to pick up.
- Chief Clark received a request for SCBAs from Pine Meadows Fire Company, a small department in the state.
- Chief Clark, Assistant Chief Wisner and Captain Donnelly met with Northeast Communications to develop a relationship with the new company that will service our radios.
- An air conditioning unit in the Inspection Bureau is being replaced this week. The project is part of the Noresco energy project.
- The department received two \$100 donations. One of the donations was from Alba West and the other was from Doris LaRese. The money will be used to purchase detectors for the CRR program.
- Deputy Chief DiBattista and Captain Heath attended the Firehouse Software seminar and returned with many new ideas. The department is making strides to better utilize the software's capabilities and plans to continue to send members to the annual training conference to gain knowledge.
- The awards ceremony was held on October 7, 2015 and was well attended. Three recipients were from outside of the department. Southington resident Alessandro Rodegher was honored for rescuing his neighbor from a fire. Local businesses Volpe's Auto and Chuck & Eddies were honored for their support of the department by providing training aids.
- The State of Connecticut is holding Fire Officer I and Fire Instructor I classes at Headquarters. Deputy Chief DiBattista arranged to host these classes in response to volunteer members' requests.
- The Health Department will be holding flu clinics in the training room at Headquarters on October 21, from 17:00-19:00 and October 28, from 11:00-13:00.
- The new phone system has been installed at Fire Headquarters. We are now capable of transferring calls to all departments on the new VOIP system.
- The entry-level firefighter testing will be advertised by the end of the month for testing in January 2016.
- The second notice for subscribers to the digitizer system has gone out. A third notice will go out in December and sent by certified mail.
- A staff meeting for both volunteer and career officers is being planned before the holidays.

- New hydraulic rescue tool was put in service expanding the capabilities of Company 1.

Commissioner Kanute asked if the new hydraulic tool has been used. Chief Clark reported that it had been used at ESPN last week.

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 September 2015:

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 45
2. CRRs - 3
3. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 167
4. Damage to property involved in fire - \$0
5. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$26,850
6. Other losses - \$100
7. Total - \$26,950
8. Total units responded were - 570

Assistant Chief Wisner also reported that the Bureau is currently working on multiple plan reviews, including:

- Plan review for four buildings at 99 Executive Blvd.
- Cumberland Farms on West St. is an ongoing project
- Crystal Bees on Spring St. continues to move forward
- Many smaller plans have been received

Assistant Chief Wisner reported that the department has been busy with fire prevention visits all month. He also reported the popularity of the Fire Prevention trailer at the Apple Harvest Festival.

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

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Vice Chairperson Bunko thanked all that were involved in putting together the awards ceremony on October 7, 2015. He felt that it was a testament to the department's commitment to recognize the members' achievements.

Commissioner Stanforth thanked Company 1 and Company 2 for extending invitations to the Board for their upcoming Old Timer's Night and Appreciation Night.

Commissioner Stanforth also talked about the positive impact the Fire Prevention Trailer has on the community and how it is reflected in the ISO rating.

Captain Alan Zygmunt conducted a demonstration of the new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for the Board. He discussed the changes in the new packs versus the old styles, and how the changes have been adopted to the newest NFPA standard. Lt. James Paul and FF Andrew Polzella donned air packs and showed how the new alarm system and buddy-breathers are improved safety features. Commissioner Stanforth asked about how members who wear eyeglasses see with the masks on. Captain Zygmunt reported that the incidents that require wearing an SCBA usually are low visibility situations, but some members have purchased prescription inserts in their masks.

The Board thanked Captain Zygmunt for the presentation. Chief Clark stated that there was a lot of research and input from the members that helped decide on the model and features that were chosen. He reported that now the whole department has one style pack, which is safer, compared to the three different styles that was used previously.

FF Daniel Comen presented the Board with an overview of the findings of the Gear Committee. The committee consists of FF Daniel Comen, FF Scott Lee, Lt. Glenn Dube, FF Lee Dibble, FF Andrew Polzella, FF Christian Mastrianni and FF Benjamin Kiessling. The committee members spent many hours researching different materials and vendors before choosing LION as its recommendation. FF Comen discussed all the research that was conducted to reach their recommendation and the safety benefits of their choice. The gear chosen will have more reflective stripping, and black, versus the current tan that is in currently in service. The stripping and color were found to be more visible during the daytime.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Lt. Paul discussed the work the Truck Committee did for the new engine and all the hours that were dedicated to the project. He explained that many members, in addition to the committee members, were instrumental in preparing the truck for service in a record time of six days. Commissioner Kanute asked Lt. Paul if there is a difference in the new engine's driving. Lt. Paul reported that he has yet to drive it, but has seen that it does have a better turning radius and handles better. Lt. Paul thanked the Board for their support of the project.

Chief Clark discussed how many members are taking an active part in projects for the department. Commissioner Stanforth asked if the volunteer companies were invited to participate. Chief Clark reported that there have been many opportunities for them to become involved but there has been little interest.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

ISO Report – Chief Clark discussed the report and the change in the town's rating from a 4 to a 3/3Y. The change should show the town's businesses and residents a savings

in their property insurance. The Community Risk Reduction program was a large contributor for qualifying for a better rating. Training also saw an increase in its score, which is attributed to the new training objectives for the department. Commissioner Stanforth asked Chief Clark to get more information on three of the categories and on how the score is determined for the next monthly meeting.

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Longo, to approve the Gear Committee's recommendation for new purchases of bunker gear. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Clark reported that the replacement of gear will be done as needed due to the expense and that the current gear being worn is in good shape.

MOTION: by Longo, seconded by Stanforth, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 6:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Return to regular session

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Wayne Stanforth, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners