

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Baker called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on December 17, 2015, to order at 6:04 p.m. Commissioners Baker, Bunko, Stanforth, and Kanute. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner. Commissioner Robertson arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Baker held a moment of silence in honor of firefighters who have lost their lives and for the safety of all firefighters.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, nominating Bunko as chairperson. Nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stanforth thanked Commissioner Baker for the fantastic job she did as chairperson for the past two years. Commissioner Baker thanked him and endorsed Chairperson Bunko who is a dedicated member and an advocate for the department.

The meeting was turned over to Chairperson Bunko.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Stanforth, nominating Baker as vice chairperson. Nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Kanute, nominating Stanforth as Secretary. Nominations were closed. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Baker, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, to approve payment of bills for November 2015 in the amount of \$62,579.67. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the approval FF Douglas Bagley's application for second lieutenant of Company 2.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the approval 1st Lt. Joel Munson's application for captain of Company 3.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the request of a Special Appropriation of \$15,500 for the FD Equipment Gear Washer/Dryer account.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the request of a Special Appropriation of \$6,400 for the Carbon Monoxide Sensor Donation.

Letter from the career officers detailing their safety and operational concerns due to staffing levels.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- The department hosted two Connecticut Fire Academy classes this year, Fire Officer 1 and Fire Instructor 1. Department members who attended the classes will be recognized at January's regular meeting.
- Chief Clark, Captain Donnelly, and Lt. Paul met with representative of NexGen today, at their East Haven headquarters, to discuss the next steps to implement software for use on the apparatus. The program to install the software on the iPads and mounting hardware is progressing rapidly. After the installation is completed training will be held for all members.
- The on-duty shift assisted Community Services with the annual gift delivery for the seniors on December 17, 2015.
- Assistant Chief Wisner has contracted a company to install ice melt wire on Company 3's roof. The wire is being installed to prevent leaks inside the building.
- The department has received a donation from Southington resident Curtis Robinson, of \$6,400 for the purchase of carbon monoxide meters. Mr. Robinson will attend the Board's January meeting so the Board and administration, can thank him personally for his generous donation. The donation will make it possible to outfit all apparatus with a meter.
- A staff meeting was held on December 10, 2015, with both the career and volunteer officers. The meeting was productive and several ideas were presented by the officers in attendance.
- The Department Heads meeting was held on December 1, 2015.
- A meeting on hoarding was held after the Department Heads meeting. A local group of department heads was formed to try to help residents deal with hoarding situations.
- Holy Trinity Church held a mass on November 22, 2015, led by Reverend Krusienski, to honor all Southington firefighters, both living and deceased. Unfortunately, the mass was held on a day of live burn training and many of members could not attend.
- Company 2 is holding their annual Holiday Gathering on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

- The Town Council and the Board of Education will be hosting a Holiday Breakfast on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, from 8:30 to 10:00, for town employees.
- The annual Police and Fire Ball is being held on February 27, 2016.
- The generator project may be delayed because of a strike at the manufacturer's plant.
- The HVAC system in the Inspection Bureau is being replaced as part of the Energy Committee's project.
- A conduit has been run to Company 1's sign for installation of a light.

Vice chairperson Baker asked if a list of hoarders was given to the firefighters. Chief Clark reported that the addresses with hoarding issues that the department has responded to are known to the members but there are many that are unknown.

Commissioner Stanforth asked about the ISO information that was requested in a previous meeting. Chief Clark reported that he did try to reach the company for the category definitions but was unable to reach anyone. Chief Clark will try again to reach them, and hopes to have the information at the next meeting.

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

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

1. Fire Marshal's inspections – 42
2. CRRS - 10
3. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 166
4. Damage to property involved in fire - \$27,000
5. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$3,400
6. Other losses - \$1,050
7. Total - \$31,450
8. Total units responded were - 516

Assistant Chief Wisner also reported:

- The Inspection Bureau is conducting inspections in the center of town
- Holiday walk-throughs are being conducted
- Plans for a large auto parts store on Queen St. have been received
- The property on Knotter Drive is under construction
- Multiple small prints have been received
- The property near Bob's Discount Furniture is in the beginning process for development

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

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Stanforth, to add item 9.D. Action on the Special Appropriation request of \$6,400 for the Carbon Monoxide Sensor Donation. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Bunko thanked Vice Chairperson Baker for her service as chairperson and the new initiatives that were achieved during her tenure. Chairperson Bunko also thanked the staff meeting attendees for allowing him to attend.

Commissioner Stanforth thanked the shift that he rode with during for a four-hour tour that included two calls. He was able to witness the responsibilities assigned to the shifts besides responding to calls.

Commissioner Stanforth discussed the incident trend report and the revised manpower report, and how it will be useful in presenting the department's requests to the Board of Finance and Town Council.

Commissioner Stanforth asked if there was a task force to help the recruitment of volunteer members. Chief Clark reported that there is a Recruitment and Retention Committee that has begun to address the issue. Chief Clark reported that the recruitment issue is a national problem. Commissioner Stanforth suggested that a marketing company may be helpful.

Vice Chairperson Baker looks forward to acknowledging Curtis Robinson for his donation and the members who have recently completed their training, at the next meeting. Commissioner Kanute suggested inviting the press to attend. Chief Clark stated that Town Manager Brumbach will also attend. Commissioner Stanforth would also like to invite Town Council Chairman Michael Riccio. Chief Clark expects the meters to be delivered in time for demonstration.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Retired FP Al Urso, Sr. discussed his concerns with the amount of manpower and apparatus that respond to incidents on the highway. He feels that the current policy is putting the members and the department's equipment at an unnecessary risk for certain types of calls. Chief Clark stated that the current policy was adopted from the U.S. Fire Administration's Transportation Incident Management Systems (TIMS) recommendations. Chief Clark discussed the adoption of the policy and how he has witnessed many departments have similar policies. Chief Clark could not comment on the specific incidents that FP Urso, Sr. was questioning, but did report that it is at the incident commander's discretion to dismiss personnel if they feel that it is warranted. Chief Clark offered to meet with FP Urso, Sr. to further discuss the issue, but he declined. Commissioner Stanforth thanked FP Urso, Sr. for his concerns and encouraged him to come to the Board with any future concerns.

Commissioner Robertson arrived.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Budget - The 2016-2017 CIP plan was discussed.

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, to approve the CIP plan as presented with the exceptions of the revised explanations and the amounts requested in the vehicle request. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget workshops were scheduled for December 28, 2015 and January 6, 2016, both at 5 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, to approve FF Douglas Bagley's application for 2nd lieutenant of Company 2. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Stanforth, to approve 1st Lt. Joel Munson's application for captain of Company 3. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Stanforth, to approve requesting a Special Appropriation of \$15,500 for the FD Equipment Gear Washer/Dryer account. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Kanute, to approve requesting a Special Appropriation request of \$6,400 for the Carbon Monoxide Sensor Donation account. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Stanforth, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Clark, and Assistant Chief Wisner to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Returned to regular session at 7:50 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


Wayne Stanforth, Secretary *MRF*
Board of Fire Commissioners