

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Bunko called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on January 21, 2016, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Baker, Bunko, Stanforth, Kanute and Robertson. Chief Clark was also in attendance. Assistant Chief Wisner was absent.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Clark presented town resident Curtis Robinson with a plaque in appreciation of his generous donation for the purchase of four gas detectors. Captain Heath and Lt. Paul demonstrated the uses of the detector and discussed the important function it has as a safety tool for firefighters. Mr. Robinson told of his appreciation for the service the department does for the community and his willingness to help.

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

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Stanforth, to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2015, budget workshop as circulated. Motion carried with four ayes and one abstention.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Stanforth, to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2016, budget workshop as circulated. Motion carried with four ayes and one abstention.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Stanforth, to approve payment of bills for December 2015 in the amount of \$53,750.06. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Memo from Chief Clark recommending the approval of FF August Riedinger's application for second lieutenant of Company 1.

Memo from Chief Clark recommending sending four members to the FHET annual conference in September.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Chief Clark spent most of the month working on the 2016-2017 budget request.
- The new Ford Expedition was delivered and was sent out for paint and stripping. It is expected back tomorrow. Arrangements have been made to

send it out to Fleet Auto to have the emergency lighting, radios and command box installed.

- The iPads have all been programmed with NexGen software and training will start in the next weeks. Installation of the iPads in the apparatus is scheduled for the first week of March.
- Chief Clark and Deputy Chief DiBattista attended a tornado planning session at Southington High School. The meeting was held by the Board of Education for the principals of the high school and middle schools.
- Entry-level firefighter testing will be held at Southington High on Saturday, January 23, 2016. Due to the predicted snowstorm, Chief Clark contacted Superintendent Timothy Connellan to ensure that the school will be open for the testing.
- There was a living room fire on Meriden Ave. The fire was contained to the area of origin.
- All shifts have done ice rescue training as their monthly training objective.
- The department conducted a successful ice rescue on Podunk Pond of a young girl who was stuck in the mud up to her knees and water up to her chest.
- At the Connecticut Career Chief's monthly meeting, the attendees were informed that all fire apparatus must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. A list of apparatus was sent to Town Manager Brumback's office with a request for municipal plates, and once received they will be attached to the trucks.
- The work on the HVAC in the Inspection Bureau is finishing up. The walls that were damaged during the project, are being painted.
- Dlugos Tree Service was hired to remove some of the white pine trees at Company 3.
- DC DiBattista has set up the online classes for members who need to complete their EMT recertification. The recertification process includes two days of practical skills and a testing day.

Commissioner Stanforth asked how the 2016-2017 budget request had been received. Chairperson Bunko stated Chief Clark and himself would be meeting with Town Manager Brumback tomorrow morning. Chief Clark discussed his meetings with various town leaders to get their support for additional manpower. He plans to continue contacting members of various boards with hopes to schedule additional meetings.

Chief Clark also reported on the information he had gathered on the ISO questions Commissioner Stanforth had asked. He stated that two of the definitions requested were just formulas they used to balance different departments in a municipality.

The third question was how ISO determined the low number the department received on staffing and Chief Clark was told it was based on a ratio of career members per volunteer members, and how quickly water can be delivered to a fire scene. ISO was not able to provide information on how much a saving is realized in individual insurance premiums by a lower rating.

Vice Chairperson Baker asked for more information on the online EMT recertification classes. Chief Clark reported that the classes are through an online college that gives the members the ability to complete the classroom portion on duty.

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

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Bunko thanked the members of the department who participated in the YMCA's Polar Plunge. He appreciates their support of the event.

Chairperson Bunko attended Tuesday's probationary firefighter class and met with the four members.

Chairperson Bunko reminded the members that the annual Police and Firemen's Ball is being held on February 27, 2016.

Chairperson Bunko and Chief Clark are scheduled to meet with Town Manager Brumback tomorrow to discuss the department's 2016-2017 budget request and will stress the importance of the manpower issue.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Budget - The 2016-2017 budget request was briefly discussed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Company Bylaws – Chief Clark discussed the need for all companies by laws to be reviewed to make sure they are protected from any lawsuit that may be brought based on their involvement in firefighting duties. Company 2 is currently having their bylaws reviewed by an attorney and an accountant. When Chief Clark receives Company 2's document it will be forwarded to the town attorney for review before it is approved. Chief Clark would like to use the language from the finished document for all companies.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Robertson, to approve FF August Riedinger's application for 2nd lieutenant of Company 1. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Stanforth, to approve sending four members to the FHET annual conference in September. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stanforth asked why four people were being sent. Chief Clark explained that the software company only has training once a year and that each member that would go has a specific area that they are targeting.

MOTION: by Baker, 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 6:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Returned to regular session at 6:57 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Wayne Stanforth, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners