

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Bunko called the special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on September 15, 2016, to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners Bunko, Baker, Stanforth, Kanute and Robertson were present. Also in attendance were Chief Clark and Asst. Chief Wisner.

Roll Call

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of the Chief and Asst. Chief to conduct interviews for the positions of captain, and entry level firefighter at 5:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Candidates were interviewed.

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, to return to open session at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Bunko thanked all the candidates for their time and effort during the interview process.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Kanute seconded by Stanforth, to offer FF Richard Jones the position of captain. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Stanforth seconded by Kanute, to offer the position of entry level firefighter to Jeffrey Roy pending passing the Department physical and a background check. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robertson thanked the entry-level candidates and stated that all should be proud of what a great job they did. Robertson also advised the candidates who were not hired, that there might be openings in the future that they may be considered for.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Robertson, to approve the minutes of July 21, 2016, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Stanforth seconded by Baker, to approve payment of bills for July 2016 in the amount of \$59,736.23. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute seconded by Stanforth, to approve payment of bills for August 2016 in the amount of \$316,688.20. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report: None

CHIEF'S REPORT:

CERT:

- CERT will participate in the Civic Showcase on September 17, 2016.

Recruitment and Retention:

- The last meeting was held on September 12.
- The meeting minutes for Monday and July's meeting are in the meeting packets.
- The committee discussed referring applicants who do not meet the requirements to be a volunteer firefighter, to CERT as an option to serve their community.

Equipment and Apparatus:

- R-1 will be going back to Cummins for extensive repairs to the generator. The drive shaft for the generator will also be inspected and if it is determined to be the cause Cummins will not be responsible for the repair.
- L-1 needs its air-conditioner pump replaced and has an estimated cost of \$1500 - \$2000.
- The 2012 Ford Expedition is still out of service due to a recall. Neither Ford nor the dealership has a currently has a way to repair it and a loaner car is not being offered. Chief Clark spoke with Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney Mark Sciota and it was decided to go to contact the Department of Motor Vehicles to put pressure on Ford for a solution.

Budget:

- Light Metal Coloring has paid \$29,633.86 for all cost incurred by the department for the spill.

Miscellaneous:

- An email went out to all members on August 22 looking for members to be a part of various committees. The following are the members who responded:

SOP Committee – Meeting date TBD

- Deputy Chief Scott DiBattista
- Assistant Chief Wisner
- Battalion Chief Alan Zygmunt
- Lieutenant Chris Martin
- Meeting date tentatively TBD

Strategic Planning Committee – Meeting date Tuesday, September 27, 2016

- Commissioner Wayne Stanforth
- Chief Clark
- Deputy Chief Scott DiBattista
- Battalion Chief Alan Zygmunt
- Firefighter Ben Hogan
- FF Chris Fusco is looking at a numbering system for the different hiking trails in Southington, to assist with locating lost hikers.
- Captain Douglas Roy has put in for retirement as of October 2, 2016.
- CT Department of Labor Wage and Hour Investigator ReAnne Fraczek is investigating two complaints the Department of Labor received about the way the volunteer firefighters are paid by the town. Specifically the investigation involves a complaint of volunteer firefighters not being paid minimum wage. Investigator Fraczek met with Chief Clark, the Finance Director, and HR Director on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 to discuss the complaint. After the meeting, Investigator Fraczek left a message with the HR Director stating that the case is being turned over for Federal Department of Labor to investigate. Investigator Fraczek strongly advised that the Town of Southington stop paying by the hour and go to a stipend per call system. Chief Clark is researching other town's reimbursement plans. Chief Clark advised that there may be a need for a special meeting in October to address this issue.

Upcoming Events:

- Apple Harvest parade is October 2nd and line up at 1300 and step off is at 1400 in front of the Falcon Hall
- SFD Awards Ceremony October 4th Derynoski Elementary School

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 July 2016:

1. Fire Marshal's inspections – 38
2. CRRs - 0
3. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 180
4. Damage to property involved in fire - \$201,380
5. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$10,600
6. Other losses - \$0
7. Total - \$211,980
8. Total units responded were - 622

Activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of August 2016:

1. Fire Marshal's inspections – 56
2. CRRs - 0
2. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 187
3. Damage to property involved in fire - \$5,000
4. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$14,325
5. Other losses - \$1,000
6. Total - \$20,325
7. Total units responded were - 661

The following are recent fire incidents with significant damage:

- High St. - Structure fire with \$150,000 worth of damage
- Pacer Lane – Building fire from a candle caused \$6,000 worth of damage

Assistant Chief Wisner also reported:

- Construction on 99 Executive Blvd. is progressing
- The plans for Chips Restaurant were received
- The plans for a brewery on Canal St. were received
- August was a busy month for school inspections
- Black and Decker construction is progressing
- CV Tool submitted plans for an extensive addition

Commissioner Stanforth noted that the number of calls were above average in July and August.

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

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Bunko discussed the 911 ceremony that Bunko and Chief Clark attended, along with other members of the department. Bunko told of how moving the ceremony was. After the ceremony, both Bunko and Chief Clark attended a service at Holy Trinity Church. Bunko felt that both events demonstrated the support the community has for first responders.

Chairperson Bunko also reminded everyone of the Apple Harvest Parade and the Awards Ceremony.

Vice Chairperson Baker thanked Chris and Laurie Conlon for holding a dinner at their restaurant, Smokin With Chris, for all first responders and their families. Baker felt that the event was very nice and was a great show of support for the fire and police departments.

Commissioner Stanforth thanked Kidde for their donation of smoke detectors for the CRR program.

Commissioner Stanforth asked about the status of the door-to-door recruitment for Company 5's area. Chief Clark reported that members of Company 2 plan to accompany Company 5 members this Saturday on a door-to-door recruitment drive.

Commissioner Kanute congratulated C Shift members for their generosity in spending time with a special needs student at a summer program at Southington High. The members let the student tour the engine and work the controls. Kanute has received numerous compliments of the shift, from educators who were at the school.

Vice Chairperson Baker told of the Town Council passing the ordinance that allows tax abatements for retired volunteer firefighters who served the Southington Fire Department for 25 years or more.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Kanute, to accept the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief Benefit Package. 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 to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Return to regular session

MOTION: by Stanforth, seconded by Robertson, adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Wayne Stanforth, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners