

TOWN OF SOUTHTON  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Bunko called the meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on September 21, 2017, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Bunko, Baker, Kanute, and Robertson were present. Commissioner Stanforth was absent. Also in attendance were Chief Heath and Asst. Chief Wisner.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Baker, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2017, special meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Kanute, to approve payment of bills for August 2017 for \$31,283.69. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

Memo from Chief Heath recommending requesting an appropriation of \$336,893 from the Contingency Fund for the Overtime Account

Memo from Chief Heath recommending a special appropriation of \$1,060 to the CRR Program Supplies account to purchase smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Memo from Chief Heath recommending the sale of E32 to Adah Volunteer Fire Department for \$15,000

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Heath reported:

**Apparatus and Equipment**

- The 2017 Sutphen engine was delivered to Five Star in East Hartford. Once it is delivered to Headquarters and is in service, the 2015 Sutphen will go to Five Star for the installation of a seat and graphics. It is anticipated that the new engine will be in town tomorrow, September 22, and the 2015 would go to Five Star on Monday, September 25, and return on Friday, September 29. All three Sutphen engines are expected to be in the Apple Harvest Parade.
- E32 has a confirmed offer for sale pending an inspection by the department this weekend. E61 still has seen little interest.
- Company 3 will coordinate with the training division on training for R2, in preparation of it being relocated to Company 3 and renamed to R3. Once completed Company 3 will mirror Headquarters apparatus with a ladder and a rescue.

**Operations and Administration**

- Chief Heath is looking into expanding service by utilizing the current staffing to address staffing/response from Station 5. Chief Heath is considering assigning two career members, Monday through Friday, during the day, to Station 5 on a rotational basis, with the spare engine. It is not the optimal choice to run a two-man engine, but Chief Heath feels a change needs to be made for coverage in the north side of town. The volunteer members who respond to a call will supplement the two man assigned shift. If adopted, the change would take effect for Monday October 2, 2017, and concurrently expand the All-Call to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- BC Dube submitted a manpower report for July and August that shows that the implementation of the All Call on July 3 has increased staffing during the daytime, Monday through Friday, especially for the simultaneous calls. The amount of simultaneous calls has increased to 33%. This benefit was seen during yesterday's large-scale events that occurred simultaneously.
- The last round of promotions and shift changes took effect on September 3.
- The annual Awards Ceremony is scheduled for October 11, 2017 at Derynoski Elementary School at 1900.
- Chief Heath would like the Board's approval to staff Company 2 or Company 3 with volunteers during the Apple Harvest Festival hours. The assignment would be a three-man engine that would be paid a fire watch stipend while in service. The incurred cost is approximately \$1000-\$1200 in reimbursable stipend costs. The need for the assignment is due to traffic detours that delays the response from Headquarters.
- A combined staff meeting was held on September 14, 2017 at 1900. A presentation by CIRMA on Workers Compensation for volunteer firefighters was held in the beginning of the meeting, followed by a meeting where several operational and administrative items were discussed, such as:
  - Staffing of Station 5 Monday-Friday days
  - Revising the reimbursement plan to a tiered system to incentivize training
  - Status of the state budget and the impact on the Fire Department
- There were two significant calls yesterday, September 20; a Haz-Mat situation on Queen St. and a structure fire on Flanders Rd., which happened concurrently. The Haz-Mat call ran until 1400 and tied up the resources of 2 engines, the rescue, and 12 personnel. When the Flanders Rd. structure fire was toned out the on call procedure was followed by clearing an engine company from the Haz-mat call and was able to provide more immediate resources. That along with mutual aid, contributed to a more positive outcome for the homeowner.

## Personnel

- Lt. Bertellotti from Company 5 has requested to be reassigned as a firefighter to Company 3 due to him moving into their district. Company 3's officers have been notified

## Miscellaneous

- CERT will be assisting with Apple Harvest Parade, which is scheduled for Sunday October 1 at 1400. The rain date is the following Sunday, October 8.

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

## ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

Activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of August 2017:

- Fire Marshal's Inspections – 69
- CRRS - 5
- Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 197
- Damage to property involved in fire - \$0
- Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$23,725
- Other losses - \$300
- Total - \$24,025

Assistant Chief Wisner reported that there were two structure fires caused by smoking. One was a kitchen fire by an unattended cigarette and the other was a deck fire caused by a discarded cigarette.

Assistant Chief Wisner reported the following Fire Marshals Bureau's activities:

- Plan review for a new 10,000 square foot building for the Water Pollution Plant
- Plan review for a new pump and treatment station for the Water Department
- Site plan review for a 12-lot subdivision of Mount Vernon Rd.
- Plan review for a 23,000 square foot building on Industrial Dr.
- 89 open projects
- The Bureau has done 145 plans review so far this year, compared to 100 in the same time last year

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

## COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Bunko discussed the combination staff meeting that was held on Thursday, September 14, 2017. The meeting was very productive and began with a presentation by CIRMA on the Workers' Compensation benefits for volunteer firefighters.

Chairperson Bunko attended a live burn exercise at K&M Fire Protection, 8 West St. The exercise demonstrated the benefits of residential sprinklers.

Chairperson Bunko and Chief Heath will attend a workshop on Stress Management for Firefighters tomorrow in Wethersfield.

Vice Chairperson Baker expressed her approval for staffing a station during the Apple Harvest Festival.

Vice Chairperson Baker also discussed attending the combination staff meeting and that it was good to hear the issues addressed.

Vice Chairperson Baker attended Company 3's Lobster Bake and spoke with FF Nicholas Rosario and FF Noah Sheffy who are excited to receive their black helmets at the award ceremony. Vice Chairperson Baker congratulated all members who are receiving helmets.

Vice Chairperson Baker told of her appreciation of the email Chief Heath had sent on yesterday's large-scale incidents. Vice Chairperson Baker asks if an email can be sent out to keep the Board informed on the status of the new engine.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

BC Paul discussed the long-term Haz-Mat incident that happened. The incident ran for seven and a half hours that included the DEEP, and Connecticut State Police. BC Paul reported that everyone involved did a great job.

BC Dube discussed the Flanders Rd. fire that happened yesterday. BC Dube described the manpower issue that he faced handling the second call and the need to activate the statewide regional task force because the first incident had already exhausted the mutual aid of surrounding towns. BC Dube echoed BC Paul's praise on the work everyone did at both scenes.

Dave Jeffrey of 15 Kingswood Dr., asked about the Board of Finance requests for the overtime account that have occurred over the past three months. Chairperson Bunko explained that the June request was a shortfall in the account that covered expenses at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2017. Chairperson Bunko explained that the request that was voted on in August by the Board was for expenses projected to October 31, and that the item being voted on today includes those expenses and the projection from November 1 to December 31.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**MOTION:** by Kanute, seconded by Baker, to approve requesting an appropriation of \$336,893 from the Contingency Fund for the Overtime Account for projected expenses through December 31. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairperson Baker stated that 2/3's of the request is for staff replacement.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Baker, to a request a special appropriation of \$1,060 to the CRR Program Supplies account to purchase smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Baker, to approve the sale of E32 to Adah Volunteer Fire Department for \$15,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Baker, seconded by Kanute, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Heath and Assistant Chief Wisner, to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Michael Bunko, Chairperson  
Board of Fire Commissioners