

TOWN OF SOUTHTON  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Wilson called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on March 21, 2019, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Wilson, Bunko, Robertson, and Moise were present. Vice Chairperson Shanley-Buck was absent. Also in attendance were Chief Butler and Assistant Chief Paul.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was held in memory of all fallen firefighters.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Nelson DeAngelo told of his disagreement of having public communications moved to Item 3 on the agenda. He feels that communications should be moved back to Item 8. Commissioner Moise stated that it was at his suggestion that the item be moved to the beginning of the meeting so that the firefighters would have a better opportunity to talk before a possible alarm. Chairperson Wilson told of the move allowing the attendees to comment on the previous meeting.

FP Nicholas Cutler told of his agreement with Mr. DeAngelo's request to have the communications item moved back to Item 8. FP Cutler feels that it is being perceived as it stifling the members.

FP Nicholas Cutler discussed that there were multiple incidents of motor vehicles running over fire hoses at fire scenes recently. FP Cutler recommends some type of education for the public of the dangers and that doing so breaks the law per Connecticut statue. FP Cutler stated that the statue imposes a monetary fine that he feels is too low and is working on having it increased. Chairperson Wilson told of his interest pursuing increasing the fine.

FF Edward Ozga asked about the process of commissioners appointments. Chairperson Wilson told of how the appointments are made by the Town Council.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2019, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to approve payment of bills for February 2019 in the amount of \$41,411.02. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

A memo from Chief Butler recommending the special appropriation request for the Community Grant Walmart Program Services for \$1,000

A memo from Chief Butler recommending the Incentive Plan shares of \$697.67 for a full share and \$348.84 for a half share

A memo from Chief Butler recommending a transfer request to the Overtime Pay account for \$75,000

A memo from Chief Butler recommending a transfer request to the Building Maintenance account for \$5,000

A memo from Chief Butler recommending a transfer request to the Vehicle Maintenance account for \$12,600

A memo from Chief Butler recommending a transfer request to the Uniforms account for \$5,000

A memo from Chief Butler recommending a transfer request to the Equipment and Furniture account for \$4,000

#### CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Butler discussed the following:

- Plans for the change in the Training Division are being worked on
- An email was sent out to all the volunteer members to see if there was interest in attending an EMR certification class at Fire Headquarters and only seven members responded so the viability of holding a class here is being looked at
- Chief Butler was contacted by CONN OSHA about the two injuries that were sustained at the Crissey Lane fire and they were satisfied with the information given to them
- Chief Butler is scheduling a date for CONN OSHA to come to the department for a consultation on areas of concern
- The department has been very busy with the following incidents:
  - Tops Market fire
  - Crissey Lane house fire
  - Dunkin Donuts car fire
  - Chuck and Eddies
- The department has to make sure that social media has accurate information
- At the Town Council meeting on March 18, 2019, the department was thanked for their work at the Tops fire along with other town departments
- Chief Butler distributed a report to the Board of training and response data for the first quarter
- Chief Butler discussed a meeting that he attended with Assistant Chief Paul and Battalion Chief Donnelly with the Police Department regarding the possibility of the fire department being added to an existing radio program
- Chief Butler, Assistant Chief Paul and Battalion Chief Heath met with two fire chiefs from surrounding town to discuss mutual aid
- Assistant Chief Paul is working on having the department reimbursed for some of the equipment that was contaminated at the Chuck and Eddies fire

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Moise, to approve the Chief's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

Assistant Chief Paul reported the following:

Activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of February 2019:

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 63
2. CRRS - 3
3. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 187
4. Damage to property involved in fire - \$0
5. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$5,550
6. Other losses - \$0
7. Total - \$5,550

General Information

- Currently enrolled in State of CT Fire Investigator Module
- Code Enforcement class begins April 5 to July 1
- BC Heath and the Equipment Committee completed research and demos of e-draulic HRTs
- Currently working with the management at Chuck and Eddie's and their insurance for damaged/contaminated equipment

Apparatus

- New Staff vehicle currently at Fleet Auto in West Haven for the light package and radio installations
- Waiting on a signed contract for the new tanker
- There was a recall on Ladder 1 that was completed by Firematic

Building Maintenance

- Station 3 overhead door motor was replaced
- All State of Connecticut boiler certificates were received and put in place on corresponding boilers

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Robertson, to approve the Assistant Chief's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORT: None

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Wilson thanked the department members and the chiefs for doing an amazing job. Commissioner Moise thanked the department for all the hard work over the past few weeks and feels that their work demonstrated how their training has paid off. Commissioner Robertson also felt that the department should be recognized for their work.

Commissioner Robertson discussed his support of moving the public comments later in the meeting. Commissioner Robertson also discussed the process of how the commissioners are appointed through a list of candidates that are drawn up by

a political party that is given to the Town Council who makes the appointment through a majority vote. Commissioner Robertson suggested that it would be helpful to the candidate to first do research on the department before the appointment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Moise, to approve the special appropriation request for the Community Grant Walmart Program Services of \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Moise, to approve the Incentive Plan shares of \$697.67 for a full share and \$348.84 for a half share. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to approve the transfer request to the Overtime Pay account for \$75,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to approve the transfer request to the Building Maintenance account for \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Moise asked about the money being available in the Volunteer Firefighters account for transfer. Chief Butler reported that the account was identified after looking at the budget and finding the lowest percentage used so far with available funds.

MOTION: by Robertson, seconded by Moise, to approve the transfer request to the Vehicle Maintenance account for \$12,600. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Robertson, to approve the transfer request to the Uniforms account for \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Robertson, seconded by Bunko, to approve the transfer request to the Equipment and Furniture account for \$4,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Moise, to adjourn to Executive Session, excluding the public and the press with the exception of Chief Butler and Assistant Chief Paul, to discuss personnel and contractual matters at 6:39 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel matters were discussed. No action was taken.

Commissioner Robertson left at 7:15 p.m.

Returned to regular session at 7:29 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Christopher Robertson, Secretary  
Board of Fire Commissioners