

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Wilson called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on April 18, 2019, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Wilson, Shanley-Buck, and Moise were present. Commissioners Bunko and Roberson were 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.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to approve payment of bills for March 2019 in the amount of \$35,753.39. Motion carried unanimously.

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment Presentation:

Chairperson Wilson thanked the volunteer captains, Captain Wisniewski and Captain Hughes, for putting together a recruitment presentation at the request of the Board.

Captain Wisniewski reported the following information that was provided by the Recruitment Committee:

- The joinsfd.org website is no longer active and Lt. Rennie has purchased the joinsfd.com website as a replacement
- The lawn signs will have to be updated with the new address
- Information cards about the department have been developed
- Research on area departments' height and weight requirements is being gathered
- A public relations firm has been contacted
- There has been a problem getting volunteer company information on the Southington Fire Department's social media pages
- Recruitment slogans on apparatus is being suggested
- Would like the volunteer firefighter application included in the Job Opportunities tab on the town website
- Members had done a door to door recruitment last fall in Company 5's district
- Company 1 has had a recruitment information at their Apple Harvest company booth
- Volunteer firefighter applications are on the engines
- Recruitment messages posted on fire station signs

- Members are active in the Workforce Solutions campaign
- Looking into getting flyers on pizza boxes at area restaurants
- Pursuing having the recruitment video played at the beginning of the drive-in movies

Captain Wisniewski also discussed that the original committee has separated and there is now a committee specifically for retention. Captain Wisniewski discussed that the committee is in charge of morale and to continue to make the guys happy. Events such as a fall picnic are being considered.

Chairperson Wilson asked for a sample of the information card. Captain Wisniewski said that he would send one to Chairperson Wilson. Also suggested was getting the names of new residents and sending them a welcome letter along with information on the department. Vice Chairperson Shanley-Buck suggested getting recruitment information put on town vehicles.

Vice Chairperson Shanley-Buck also suggested recruiting at the high school. Captain Hughes discussed how he is pursuing different avenues with the school.

Chairperson Wilson discussed how the Board recognizes all the work that is being done.

Secretary's Report:

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

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Butler discussed the following:

- The effort to hold EMR certification class at Fire Headquarters only had seven interested members so the Training Division will be selling seats to outside departments
- Two CPR/AED recertification classes will be held to accommodate the large number of members whose certifications are expiring
- The Training Division will be training to the minimum of CONN OSHA's standards
- CIRMA is going to be contacted to review the departments training and respiratory protection programs
- The first quarter of the year the call volume has increased by 10% compared to last year
- Chief Butler told of the great job the members did at the Mama Mia fire
- Chief Butler and BC Donnelly attended FDIC last week which is the biggest fire department event that provides training opportunities, has vendor displays, and offers networking
- Chief Butler told of a weekly or biweekly newsletter being looked into
- Chief Butler and Assistant Chief Paul are a part of a newly created group of local fire chiefs that are developing mutual aid procedures
- Chief Butler met with an private agency to get an estimate to develop a department master plan

- The fire alarm at Company 5 is being scheduled for install
- All four stations had their roof evaluated and the following estimated costs were reported:
 - Headquarters - \$4,000 - \$6,000
 - Company 2 - \$79,000 - \$92,000
 - Company 3 - \$500
 - Company 5 - \$750
- Monday, April 22, 2019, the quarterly report will be sent out to the companies to notify them of their response percentages
- Working with the Police Department to add the Fire Department to their radio project that would maintain, program and replace radios as needed
- Reimbursement for lost equipment from the Chuck and Eddie's incident is being worked on
- The department will participate in the Hands Only CPR and Stop the Bleed campaigns for town residents and may try to offer a similar program at the Apple Harvest Festival

Vice Chairperson Shanley-Buck asked about the plan for members who are not compliant with recertification of their CPR/AED license. Chief Butler told that he hopes for compliance and will address non-compliance if needed.

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 60
2. CRRS - 3
3. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 177
4. Damage to property involved in fire - \$1,069,000.00
5. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$13,525.00
6. Other losses - \$5,008,300.00
7. Total - \$6,090,825.00

General Information

- Asst. Chief Paul completed the first module of fire marshal classes and is now certified as a fire investigator
- Asst. Chief Paul began the second module, Code Enforcement, that will run through July 1, 2019
- Asst. Chief Paul was sworn in as a Deputy Emergency Manager on March 26, 2019
- Pump testing will be done on May 20-21, 2019

Apparatus

- The new staff vehicle is expected to be ready for pick up next week
- The preconstruction trip for Tanker 2 is May 20-22, 2019; representing the department are BC Heath, Captain Glabau and Lt. D. Badgley
- L-3 had a hydraulic leak on the driver's side that was repaired by Firematic
- The new Sutphen engine in production has a tentative completion date of September

- The Fleet/Equipment Committee has been busy with apparatus and equipment

Building Maintenance

- The Board of Education's plumber assisted us with a sink issue at Headquarters
- Continuing to treat for insects and rodents at Station 5

COMMITTEE REPORT: None

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Wilson thanked the department members for everything they are doing. Commissioner Moise discussed the high number of fires that have occurred and how training was an important part in the success of their work. Vice Chairperson Shanley-Buck told of how well all the different companies do a great job working together.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Nelson DeAngelo thanked the Board for moving the Communications from the Public back to Item 8. Mr. DeAngelo also suggested that the department look into having business owners allow their employees leave work to respond to fires as was done in the past. He feels that it may help with recruitment.

FP Nicholas Cutler discussed his continued work with raising the fines for motor vehicles running over fire hoses at fire scenes. FP Cutler discussed the different politicians he has contacted and has found support. Chairperson Wilson told FP Cutler to have these members contact him to discuss the issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to approve the transfer request to the Contracted Services account for \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Shanley-Buck, 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 6:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel matters were discussed. No action was taken.

Returned to regular session at 7:40 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Nathan Wilson, Chairperson
Board of Fire Commissioners