

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Wilson called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on September 19, 2019, to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Wilson, Shanley-Buck, Robertson, Bunko and Moise were present. 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 Bunko, seconded by Moise, to approve the August 15, 2019 regular meeting minutes as circulated. Motion carried with four ayes and one abstention.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to approve payment of bills for August 2019 in the amount of \$67,183.32. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

A memo from Chief Butler recommending the appointments of Douglas Badgley and Kevin Salmeri to captains of their companies

A memo from Chief Butler recommending the request of a \$500 special appropriation to the CRR Program Supplies account received from multiple donations

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Butler discussed the following:

Training:

- The new training program will be in place as of October 1, 2019
- A meeting was held with the volunteer trainers in preparation, and a meeting will be scheduled for a meeting with the career trainers
- A training for supervisors on sexual harassment has been scheduled for October 16, 2019, that will be taught by CIRMA
- Company 3's members have been training on R1 in preparation of its future relocation to Station 3
- Extrication training was done at Chuck and Eddies with members of Company 2 and 3; Company 1's training will be done this week
- The department is actively pursuing training in an active shooter program and plan to meet with the Police Department to coordinate training; the program will mirror a nationally recognized standard

Apparatus:

- Assistant Chief Paul just came back from the final inspection of the new engine and it is expected in time to be displayed at the Apple Harvest Festival
- E51 is up for sale
- The Fleet Committee is working on the new engine/pumper with hopes to have it finalized
- The tanker progress is ongoing
- Annual SCBA flow testing was completed and ladder testing will be done within the next few weeks

Building Maintenance:

- A comprehensive building maintenance program is being completed
- This year Company 2 is having some remodeling done
- It is planned that Company 1 will be worked on next fiscal year
- The rekeying and key fob system installation at Headquarters and Company 2 will be completed within the next two weeks
- Company 5 will be rekeyed
- Company 3 is having a network and phone system installed and if there is money left in the budget Company 3 will be rekeyed and key fob systems will be installed at Company 3 and Company 5

Administration:

- Chief Butler recommended the following volunteer officer appointments:
 - Company 2 – Douglas Badgley as captain
 - Company 3 – Kevin Salmeri as captain
- A company officers meeting was held on September 16, 2019, and the following was discussed:
 - Response Matrix
 - Having the in-district company respond during certain time periods
 - The department purchasing uniforms for company members
 - Adding additional training classes that are eligible for stipends
 - Chief Butler met with Director of Finance Emilia Portelinha and was informed that the 10% increase in reimbursement rates for those members who meet the 25% quarterly response rate would violate the Fair Labor Standards for non-employees; Chief Butler is proposing a 7-10% increase to the reimbursement for all members in its place
- Chief Butler discussed his presentation to the Town Council two weeks ago
- The department will have a recruitment table, safety trailer and the new engine at the Apple Harvest Festival
- The January through August response report was handed out to the Board and Chief Butler will send them to the company officers

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 70

2. CRRS – 3
3. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 184
4. Damage to property involved in fire - \$0.00
5. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$2,800.00
6. Other losses - \$300.00
7. Total -\$3,100.00

General Information

- Assistant Chief Paul discussed that he and members of the Fleet Committee just returned from what was the final inspection of the new engine and how productive it was
- The Inspection Bureau's final report of violations has been given to the Board of Education
- Assistant Chief Paul will attend a fire investigation seminar next week
- The new Car 3 was delivered this week and will be going out to be outfitted in the next few days
- Sav-Mor will be contacted on the status of Company 5's boiler replacement

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Commissioner Moise reported that the committee met on September 12, 2019 and the following items were discussed:

- The official website for the department's volunteer recruitment is joinsfd.org; joinsfd.com has been closed
- Lt. Rennie resigned from the committee due to time constraints
- Requests for members to help at the Apple Harvest Festival's recruitment table have been emailed out
- An interest card is close to completion
- A meeting in October is being planned

Chairperson Wilson asked the other Board members to see if they can help at the recruitment table. Chairperson Wilson also told of the committee's interest in having exit interviews and training on social media.

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Moise told of his attendance at the First Responders Breakfast and 9/11 ceremony on September 11, 2019.

Commissioner Robertson asked that the Board recognize Doug Bagley's dedication to the organization and how he uses his vacation time when he responds to calls during the day.

Vice Chairperson Shanley-Buck asked that factual information be used in the newsletter to educate the members on why decisions were made and if anyone has a question to contact Chief Butler.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Al Urso, Sr. asked if he can receive the newsletter and he was told just to forward his email address to be included on the list.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to dissolve the fire police. Motion was tabled unanimously.

Commissioner Bunko stated he only was seconding the motion so discussion could be held. Commissioner Bunko stated that he did not know that this was being brought up and after further discussion with the Board the motion was tabled.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Moise, to appoint Lt. Douglas Badgley and Lt. Kevin Salmeri as captains of their companies. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Moise, to approve FF Derek Gracy's six-month leave of absence. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Moise, to approve requesting a \$500 special appropriation to the CRR Program Supplies account received as donations. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to increase the tax abatement amount to \$1,500 for a full share and \$750 for a half share. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Wilson and Commissioner Moise discussed that the increase follows the increase at the state level in Public Act 19-36 and Bill 5125.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to approve revising the per call reimbursement rate from an additional 10% for each member who meets the 30% response rate the previous quarter to raising the reimbursement rate 10% for all members. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, 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 6:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel matters were discussed. No action was taken.

Chief Butler and Assistant Chief Paul left executive session at 6:50 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Christopher Robertson, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners