

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Wilson called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on January 9, 2020, to order at 6:02 p.m. Commissioners Wilson, Shanley-Buck, Bunko, Moise, and Kanute 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 Kanute, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2019, regular meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Bunko, to approve payment of bills for December 2019 in the amount of \$44,193.82. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

A memo from Chief Butler recommending the approval of Captain Salmeri's leave of absence request

A memo from Chief Butler recommending a transfer to the Snow Removal account

A memo from Chief Butler recommending the approval of FF Tyler Cutler's one-year leave of absence request

A memo from the Recruitment and Retention Committee requesting up to \$600 to purchase signs and interest cards

A memo from the Recruitment and Retention Committee requesting up to \$200 to purchase letters for signs

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Butler Reported:

- Ice rescue training is scheduled for the end of the month if the weather cooperates
- The rope rescue training will start in the Spring
- The members were contacted to see if there was interest in attending driver training

Chairperson Wilson asked if volunteer members were a part of the rope rescue training. Battalion Chief Heath reported that the first class that will be held during the week, will be the career members and twelve slots for volunteer members. An email went out to the members and only one member, who is now out on a leave

of absence, showed interest. A second class is being planned that will be held on the weekend that will be open to volunteer members. To qualify for the class all training must be up to date, call response must be met and they must be a EMT or EMR.

- The new probationary class started Monday, January 6, 2020, with thirteen members
- The department would like to pursue an AFG grant for the sprinkler system at Company 5

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Kanute, to add item E. to the agenda to approve the pursuit of an AFG grant for the sprinkler system at Company 5. Motion carried unanimously.

- It has been confirmed that Hazmat certification, which is given during FFI class is needed in order to respond; the department will have to adopt this policy to be in compliance with OSHA
- The Board was given a copy of the department's response to the OSHA recommendations
- A volunteer officers meeting will be scheduled in late January
- The rekeying of the buildings has been completed
- The key fobbing system should be completed tomorrow
- The PA, radio and phone system for Company 3 has been completed
- Chief Butler will meet with Town Manager Sciota to discuss the department's budget proposal for the fiscal year 2020-2021
- The Board was given the year-end response report

Chairperson Wilson asked about the next apparatus purchase planned and Chief Butler reported that it will be a ladder replacement. Chief Butler also reported that the vehicle and apparatus plan was being updated.

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

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

1. Fire Marshal's Inspections – 50
2. CRRS – 8
3. Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 265
4. Damage to property involved in fire - \$7,500.00
5. Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$19,375.00
6. Other losses - \$500.00
7. Total - \$27,375.00

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Calvert, Siemens and PJJ Electric are working to finish Co. 3 & Co.5
- The probationary members who need PPE were sized this week, otherwise all other PPE was in stock
- Helmets were received this week
- The pre-construction trip for the rescue/engine is scheduled for January 28-30, 2020

- The mid construction trip for the tanker is scheduled for mid to late February
- Assistant Chief Paul continues to work with the State of Connecticut on retiring R-3 and the Decon Unit

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Moise reported for the Recruitment and Retention Committee:

- The committee met on January 8, 2020
- The committee has a timeline for when to market to align with the July class
- The committee will have members at various town events
- United Bank will allow a table with recruitment information on March 1 and 9
- Principal Pepe of Southington High School is receptive to recruitment efforts at various school events such as a job fair
- Signage on the green is being looked at

Chairperson Wilson asked if students could do a ride along with the shifts and Chief Butler told of it being a problem with supervision and liability on the town.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to add item F. to the agenda to approve Recruitment and Retention Committee meeting dates for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairperson Shanley-Buck asked if there were proper accommodations for the new female volunteer firefighters at the stations. Chief Butler reported that the stations are not set up for sleeping but there are separate restrooms.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Bunko, to add item G. to the agenda to approve up to \$600 to purchase signs and interest cards. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Kanute, to add item H. to the agenda to approve up to \$200 to purchase letters for signs. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Wilson asked if one of the female volunteers would be willing to be a part of the Recruitment and Retention Committee. Chief Butler stated that the company officer would have to be contacted.

Chairperson Wilson discussed how he had contacted Town Manager Sciota to see if there were any type of programs for new residents to receive information packets. At this time this type of program does not exist but some form of it may happen in the future.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Wilson discussed how busy it has been the past few weeks and thanked all the members for all the work they have done in such difficult situations.

Commissioner Moise discussed the need to revise the Rules and Regulations. Chief Butler reported that he will resend his suggested revisions out to the Board to review.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Nelson DeAngelo of 151 Rosalyn Drive asked to have the recruitment and retention numbers that were not included in the November news article. Chief Butler will send them to him. Mr. DeAngelo also invited Chief Butler to do the polar plunge with him on January 18, 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Moise, to approve Captain Salmeri's leave of absence request. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Moise, to approve requesting a transfer to the Snow Removal account. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to table the Recruitment and Retention Plan for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Kanute, to approve FF Tyler Cutler's one-year leave of absence request. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Moise, to approve pursuing an AFG grant for the sprinkler system at Company 5. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Moise, to approve the Recruitment and Retention Committee meeting schedule for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Shanley Buck, to approve up to \$600 to purchase signs and interest cards. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to approve up to \$200 to purchase letters for signs. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Bunko, seconded by Kanute, 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 6:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Michael Bunko, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners