

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Wilson called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, held at Headquarters on May 21, 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

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Moise, to approve the February 20, 2020, regular meeting minutes as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Kanute, to approve payment of bills for February through April, in the amount of \$71,131.02. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

A memo from Chief Butler recommending the annual incentive plan amounts of \$857.14 for a whole share and \$428.57 for a half share

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Butler discussed the following:

- The department has been extremely busy dealing with issues related to COVID-19
- There were multiple new directives put in place in response to COVID-19
- A directive for the mandatory use of I Am Responding will be going out; there will be some exceptions allowed
- Online training has been implemented and a status report was given to the Board; members are given six-weeks to complete the training and anyone who does not comply will be put on administrative leave per the current SOP

Commissioner Kanute asked if any members reported having COVID-19. Chief Butler reported that currently there are none, but there were two volunteer members who had it but were not in the fire stations within two weeks of their diagnosis.

Commissioner Moise asked when the rescheduled FFI class was being held. Chief Butler reported that it is planned in August.

ASSISTANT CHIEF'S REPORT:

Activities of the Southington Fire Department for the month of February 2020:

- Fire Marshal's Inspections – 67
- CRRS – 5
- Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 177

- Damage to property involved in fire - \$198,660.00
- Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$10,100.00
- Other losses - \$51,500.00
- Total - \$260,260.00

Month of March 2020:

- Fire Marshal's Inspections – 57
- CRRS – 7
- Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 179
- Damage to property involved in fire - \$362,100.00
- Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire - \$2,125.00
- Other losses - \$199,500.00
- Total - \$563,725.00

Month of April 2020:

- Fire Marshal's Inspections – 37
- CRRS – 2
- Reports to the State Fire Marshal – 130
- Damage to property involved in fire – \$0
- Damage to motor vehicles involved in fire – \$0
- Other losses – \$0
- Total - \$0

*Fire Marshal's Office has not received the damage costs for the month of April 2020 as of 5/20/2020 due to the pandemic

General Information

- The mid and final inspections on Tanker 2 were held virtually with entire Truck committee present
- Special thanks to the entire Tanker 2 committee on a great build during unusual times
- The tanker will have its final inspection of acceptance in North Haven
- The department responded to two basement fires recently; both went well with no injuries
- The Fire Marshal's office is working together with other town departments with requests from with many restaurants for outdoor dining; the departments are working to ensure restaurants are not delayed in opening

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Commissioner Moise discussed the following:

- All plans being on hold due to COVID-19
- The sign for the town green was purchased
- Discussed the need for the members of the newest class to be contacted by their companies to maintain interest in the department

MOTION: by Shanley-Buck, seconded by Kanute, to add item 10.C. to the agenda as action on the extension of Chief Butler's contract for one-year, to July 29, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Members of the board stated their support of the extension.

COMMISSIONS COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Wilson discussed what a difficult and trying time it is for everyone and that he appreciates that everyone is here to support the community and try to get through it together.

Commissioner Moise thanked Chairperson Wilson for sending out a memo to the volunteer captains that told of the Board's constant contact with Chief Butler and any decisions that are being made.

Vice Chairperson Shanley-Buck complimented Chief Butler and Assistant Chief Paul on the way they are handling the department.

Commissioner Moise asked if there was any negative feedback from the public on requests for the department to participate in drive by celebrations. Chief Butler reported that everyone that he has communicated with, understood that the decision was based on the Health Department's guidance and that both the Police Department and Fire Department were not able to participate.

Chairperson Wilson discussed the support for Chief Butler's requirement for the use of the I Am Responding app. Chairperson Wilson also thanked Chief Butler on adding online training courses so mandatory training did not fall behind. Chief Butler stated though it was not a budgeted item, but when it was requested by a volunteer member, it was researched, approved, and then implemented. Further discussion was held on the positive feed back of the training and how the Board and administration support the looking into using it in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ed Pocock Jr., Board of Finance Liaison, told of his appreciation of everything the department is doing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to approve the annual incentive plan amounts of \$857.14 for a whole share and \$428.57 for a half share. Motion was tabled unanimously.

Commissioner Bunko asked why the fire police were getting the full share. Chief Butler reported that the fire police's response were not able to be tracked with the rest of the members, but it was felt that they made all calls they were called to, that they were given the full share if they met the other requirements. Chief Butler stated that next year will be different.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Shanley-Buck, to table action on the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: by Kanute, seconded by Bunko, to approve extension of Chief Butler's contract for one-year, to July 29, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Wilson told of how happy he is to have Chief Bulter stay an additional year. Chairperson Wilson, along with the other members of the board, told of how pleased they are with the improvements made within the department.

MOTION: by Moise, seconded by Bunko, to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael Bunko, Secretary
Board of Fire Commissioners