

Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting – June 20, 2011

Chair F. Hackenyos brought the meeting to order at the main firehouse at 7:00 p.m.
Present: F. Hackenyos, G. Bland, R. Leach, R. Quagliaroli, R. Gemme, and Chief Bellmore.

Secretary's Report

Quagliaroli moved, Leach seconded to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Leach moved, Gemme seconded to accept the financial report for May 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

Activities Report

The Commission reviewed reports from April and May.

Old Business

Personnel Committee

- Recruitment & Retention – Half of the money needed to fund development of a website for recruitment has been received through a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
- UConn Capstone Project – no action
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) – The Town Human Resources Director has indicated through an email that the EAP counseling services are available to department members (paid and unpaid) for group sessions only. Commission Leach suggested adding this item to the next budget in order to provide individual services, if needed.
- Accident and Sickness Policy: Volunteers – no action
- Proposed Ordinance – Snow Removal from Fire Hydrants – no action

Budget Committee

No report.

Chief's Report

- 2010 Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant – no report.
- Radio Equipment – waiting for cost information on T1 lines.
- The 2010 Fire Grant Application - notified that project is not being funded.
- Fire Prevention Grant – complete. Final report to be submitted.

- Firefighter Protective Equipment is all in. A final report to be submitted.
- IMC Software System – now operational. Encountering some issues that need to be corrected.

Apparatus Committee

Committee has met with representatives from Pierce and Seagrave. Need to write a spec for the project.

New Business

Correspondence

- None

Recruitment Signs

Chief Bellmore shared correspondence regarding a concern from Mr. Leo Smith about the recruitment signs. Mr. Smith indicated that the department was in violation of the Town's zoning regulations and a State regulation. Chief Bellmore contacted James Taylor of the Zoning Commission and some adjustments were made as to sign placement.

Proposed Changes to Training Requirements

The Commissioners were given copies of the proposed, revised training requirements. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that they did not need to vote on these changes as it fell under the Chief's responsibility. Commission members will be informed of changes in the future.

Vacation Carryover Request

Quagliaroli moved, Gemme seconded to approve Chief Bellmore's request to carry over 40 hours of vacation time into the 2011/12 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

- There was discussion on filling open positions (Training Officer, District Chief, Captain)
- CT Water Company will be replacing water mains from Bruce Park to Rt. 75 this summer. A public hearing will be held at Suffield High School on Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m. for information.
- Chief Bellmore provided a listing of Volunteer duties and responsibilities
- Commissioner Quagliaroli asked for a semi-annual report from the Fire Marshal.

Vehicles, Facilities, Equipment

Vehicles

- Vehicle Intercom Systems – no action.

- 6 month brake system inspection and lube is being completed.
- Replacement of State-owned S-10 vehicle - no action

Equipment

- Surplus Equipment – no further action – stored at Bridge St. School
- Hydraulic Rescue Tools – all identified repairs are complete
- Written Proposals
 - A purchase order has been approved for 10 pagers
 - 6 lengths of 5” supply hose (600 ft) has been received
 - Gas meter and calibration equipment have been received
 - Second meter has been ordered

Facilities

Station 2

- Outside contractor has stripped and refinished tile floors

Station 3

- Outside contractor has stripped and refinished tile floors
- Exterior door to apparatus bay at Station 3 needs to be replaced – no action
- Station 3 Emergency Generator – no action. No funding at this time

Personnel

Applications for Volunteer Membership

- Emily K. Morison is a Volunteer Explorer not a Volunteer Firefighter as stated at the last meeting.
- Leach moved, Gemme seconded to approve Volunteer Firefighter applications for: Jack K. Dromgold and Tyler J. Dromgold and a Volunteer Explorer application for Jake C. Dromgold pending their relocation to Suffield. The motion passed 3/1 (Quagliaroli voted against).
- Leach moved, Quagliaroli seconded to approved a Volunteer Firefighter application for Richard E. Faraci. The motion passed unanimously.

New Recruits – Status Report

The Commission reviewed the most recent status report. Chief Bellmore would like to create some exit questions to determine why many of the new recruits seem to lose interest before completing their training.

Executive Agreement Between the Town of Suffield and Executive Group

Chief Bellmore announced that the Board of Selectmen extended the effective date that addresses retiree’s health insurance from July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

Resignations/Change in Membership Status

- None

Open Lieutenant's Position

No action

Work Schedule

A regular work schedule including new hires will be in place by July 1.

Future Agenda Items

Filling open positions: Acting Captain (Station #2), Acting Training Officer, Tower Lieutenant.

Adjournment

Quagliaroli moved, Leach seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Leach
Secretary