



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2007
Room 204

Commissioners Present: Robert Araujo, Chairman
Merle Chase
Bruce Kosowsky
Justin Sabatino
David Sekelsky

Also Present: Chief John Milo
Fran Jones
Mile Ullrich
Nick Verdicchio

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Araujo called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:27 P.M.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mike Ullrich addressed the Board regarding acknowledgement of the three Good Samaritans on the scene at a serious accident of Sunday. He would like to get some awards for these individuals. He has their information and will pass along the information to the Board as well as the Chief. Chairman Araujo suggested that these three individuals be invited to the next Board meeting. Commissioner Sekelsky would also like to get their information and submit it to the Fairfield County Fire Chief.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of Meeting of September 4, 2007

Commissioner Sekelsky motioned approve the minutes of September 4, 2007. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

Communication was received regarding information for the upcoming bond.

F. REPORTS

1. Fire Chief John Milo

The Board has received the Chief' Report but still has not received the Weekly Report.

Commissioner Sabatino motioned to send a first letter of warning to the Chief stating that he has not followed the orders to provide the Board with his weekly report by noon on Mondays. Commissioner Sekelsky seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1.

2. Fire Marshal James Tortora

The Fire Marshal's report was submitted on October 2, 2007.

Commissioner Sekelsky motioned to send a letter to the Mayor as well as the Administrative Assistant stating that the Board is still not receiving the Fire Marshal's Report on time as specified. Commissioner Sekelsky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sabatino motioned to advise the Mayor and the Administrative Assistant that the Board received copies of the weekly activity sheets from the Fire Marshal and his deputies. Commissioner Sekelsky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Training Coordinator Francis Jones

The Board accepted the Training Coordinator's Report.

4. Quartermaster Report Jack Brand Jr.

Commissioner Sabatino motioned to send Quartermaster Brand a reminder that he Board has not seen a Quartermaster's Report in several months. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Commissioner Sekelsky

Commissioner Sekelsky has been in contact with the alarm company and they are continuously working on removing some of the system. They are also actively working on cleaning the alarm room for getting central storage moved. Commissioner Sekelsky is working with Dean Cawthra to dispose of the items that are not needed. They will soon be handing in an activity report for the month of October. They are also working on a list regarding estimates.

6. Commissioner Chase

Commissioner Chase submitted open work orders from Building Maintenance as well as issues with the sirens on Nichols Avenue. Dean Cawthra is scheduling to have Long Hill Tree Service come out and take of that. He has not heard back from Dean Cawthra, Commissioner Chase will contact him and find out the status.

7. Commissioner Sabatino

Commissioner Sabatino has been waiting for central storage to be moved. He has been actively working on this with Jack Brand. There were issues with gas meters and equipment that were on the agenda to speak with Jack about. The biggest problem is that there is quite some stuff that needs to go out, he does not want to bombard Commissioner Kosowsky, and he has turned them over to the Administrative Assistant. Regarding central storage, Dean Cawthra has stated that he would assist the department.

8. Commissioner Kosowsky

Commissioner Kosowsky stated that since the Board still does not have a secretary, there are some delays. On the communications side, regarding the minutes from last month, he wanted to clarify some things. The Board can get any records of any service regarding radios. Also, any portables that were purchased and assigned to the fire companies are all in records. Any portables that the Board has bought throughout the years, they are assigned to each company, they are signed for by the Commissioner, they are serial numbered and they go to the records keeper. Regarding the repairs of portables, anything that is above and beyond the service contract is paid for via purchase orders. Regarding the pagers, pagers have a five-year warranty; this is a flat rate through Motorola.

The biggest problems with the pagers are with broken clips and broken cases. The biggest problem with pagers has been breakage. Commissioner Kosowsky also stated that he was disappointed that the radios and the portables were taken out of the trucks and that no one contacted him. He also stated that the Board will get a report based on the frequency. The Board of Aldermen made an amendment to that motion on the frequency study that is being done. The Board will be receiving a copy of that.

9. Commissioner Araujo – Chairman’s Report
No Report

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Sekelsky motioned to add to Old Business:

3. Trial Gear
4. FOI Request

and add to New Business:

1. Gas Meters and Calibration
2. Board Assignments

Commissioner Kosowsky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Radio Policy – Review from Fire Chief

Per Chief Milo, there was no Radio Policy Report.

Commissioner Kosowsky motioned to table this item to next month’s meeting.
Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sabatino motioned to deviate from the agenda and go back to Item F-1, Fire Chief’s Report. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

(Insert): F. REPORTS

1. Fire Chief John Milo

Chief Milo stated that the Board received a copy of the written report regarding any complaints about the radios. The system of writing up any complaints for the radios and logging them seems to be working very well. We've incorporated some of the problems with the computers. Ladder 33 has had a habitual problem for a long period of time. Our vendor could not find any troubles. But when the radio was installed it was installed outside of a protective area and the weather has gotten to the unit. The cabling was replaced; I believe the issue has been resolved. Another habitual problem that was solved was Engine 2. When the cabling was installed, it was installed incorrectly. The problem has been corrected. The repeaters will start to be replaced next week. The portables are being repaired. They should be in the same time the repeaters are being installed. While that is being completed, Chief Milo will be having Northeast inspect the three new engines. Chief stated that the Board received a positive vote from the Board of Aldermen, and the frequency report from the Public Safety Council will be provided to this Board. Chairman Araujo would like the Chief to come back to the Board of Fire Commissioners with the recommendation for the approval of the radio system. Chief stated that the Board will receive the report on the frequency at which point in time there will be a joint meeting held. Once the report is understood then they will seek an approval. The Chief also stated that the console is scheduled to be replaced at the Police Department within the next two weeks and they are still waiting for that line to be installed. Once that is done the third location will be up and running. Commissioner Sabatino wanted to state that when the installer installs the system, they are not properly tested. The installers are not following through to make sure that it is an operable radio when they leave the building. We're signing off on it and it is not properly tested. Chief Milo assured that would be corrected. Regarding the portables that were removed, they will be able to be repaired. The total of the repair for the portables came out to be \$3225.00.

Commissioner Sekelsky motioned to do back to Old Business, item #2. Commissioner Sekelsky Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Medicals – Status – Fran Jones

Per Fran Jones, that the letters that were approved by this Board a few months ago to go out a month before a person's anniversary date will be mailed. A cover letter will be included if the person needs to report for a physical. He will also schedule a meeting to have the physician come and meet with the Board and go through some recommendations regarding wellness issues.

3. Trial Gear

The Officers' Council will be testing some gear.

Commissioner Sekelsky motioned to send a letter the Officers' Council that before they use any gear, they must get the approval of the Board and follow the guidelines which were set and to also include Quartermaster Brand in the process. Commissioner Sabatino seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sabatino motioned to have Commissioner Sekelsky work on the final recommendations with the Quartermaster. Commissioner Sekelsky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. FOI Request

Commissioner Sekelsky motioned to make a request under FOI for the Public Safety Council Minutes for the past three years and any minutes in the future. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Gas Meters and Calibration

Commissioner Sabatino motioned to purchase, following proper procedures, up to \$3,000.00 for Calibration Systems. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Board Assignments

Commissioner Sabatino motioned to have a Special Meeting, before our scheduled November meeting, to establish Commissioner Assignment. Commissioner Sekelsky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Homeland Security

ADJOURMENT

Commissioner Kosowsky motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Sekelsky. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Araujo adjourned the Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioner at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Sophia V. Belade

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