



*SHELTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OFFICERS' COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
7:00 P.M., Pine Rock #4
Regular Meeting Minutes*

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Francis Jones
Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich, Chairman
Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio, Vice Chairman
Assistant Chief Ed Tevolitz
Assistant Chief Tim Hongo
Assistant Chief Paul Wilson arrived at 7:20pm
Deputy Marshal Robert Rockwell
Deputy Bernard McGorty
Captain Steve Hoffman
1st Lieutenant Dave VanWart
2nd Lieutenant Gerard Danso arrived at 7:20pm
Captain Michael Pane
2nd Lieutenant Matt Lawrence
Captain Justin Sabatino arrived at 7:10pm
1st Lieutenant Joe Martus
2nd Lieutenant Carlos Chang
Captain Anthony DeSarli
1st Lieutenant Alan Ovesny
2nd Lieutenant Michael Alterio

Also present

Melissa Anglace, Clerk

Chairman, Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich called the regular meeting of the Officers' Council to order at 7:00pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. PUBLIC PORTION

None.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman, Assistant Chief Mike Ullrich questioned the Council in regards to the November 18, 2008 regular minutes.

1st Lieutenant Joe Martus made a motion to accept the minutes of the Officers' Council Regular Meeting on December 9, 2008. 1st Lieutenant Dave Van Wart seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman, Assistant Chief Mike Ullrich told the council that today everyone should have received the invitations to the Huntington Fire House and Echo Hose Fire House and save the dates.

E. REPORTS

1. *Fire Chief Francis Jones*- Welcomed all new and returning officers. The Budget will hopefully be completed at the Special Board of Fire Commissioners meeting tonight. Assistant Chief Hongo will talk more about this later but we are trying to change the organizational structure of the Fire Department so it works more effectively. There will be an organizational chart and job descriptions handed out. Assistant Chief Tevolitz will touch on the tanker and where it currently stands. As everyone knows there was a fire at the Shelton High School resulting in a lot of questions. There was the potential for a HazMat situation with mercury on site however; the numbers came back below OSHA levels. An independent air quality team tested the smoke that went throughout the school and there was no sign of mercury. Still documentation needs to be done therefore, questionnaires will be sent out and please complete them. On a safety note wear your air packs and everyone did a good job. The gear was checked plus monitored and no mercury was found. Please clean your gear. Storm Watch is out of money. More Chief discussion available on tape.

2. *Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich*- Sent out medical letters today and when the meeting is adjourned a list is needed from every company in regards to active and inactive members. Members have 30 days to complete the medicals and/or questionnaire forms if not they will be demoted to station help. Copies of the paperwork need to be submitted to Jack Kraemer the keeper of the records. The Shelton high School fire letter and questionnaire will be on its way shortly.

3. *Assistant Chief Daryl Osiecki*- None.

4. *Assistant Fire Chief Nick Verdicchio*- Handed out the radio use policy, which outlines the standard operating procedures by using their own portables & mobile fire department radio's on the fire ground. Currently the emergency service trailer is out of

service however, soon it will be up and running. This is a nice tool to have and would have been nice for the Shelton High School fire.

5. *Assistant Chief Ed Tevolitz*- Working on Tanker 59 with S/AAPA James Brown hopefully this will go out to bid. Accountability system the last few fire scenes it has been crazy. Please whomever is in the jump seat grab the tags.

6. *Assistant Chief Paul Wilson*- Discussed preparations for the upcoming storms and needs the reports. Tape was inaudible

7. *Assistant Chief Tim Hongo*- The Awards dinner date needs to be set hopefully sometime in March on a Friday or Saturday. Vice Chairman, Assistant Chief Verdicchio handed out awards nomination form. Any nominations ready today please hand them in so they can be forwarded to the board. Discussion held with the council about the proposed organizational changes at the Fire Department (sheet attached) and job descriptions on the proposed organizational chart besides the company level. This will help lighten the load and making the tasks even. The new helmet plaque policy was adapted from the Department of Labor that any member under the age of 18 will be mandated to receive an orange colored sticker and plaque. All captains need to find out how many members are under the age 18 and get a count. Anyone under the age 18 can't have a blue light or drive an emergency vehicle. Training division staff assignments and duties were discussed. More discussion is available on tape.

8. *Fire Marshal James Tortora*- None.

9. *Assistant Chief Ted Pisciotta*- None.

10. *Superintendent of Apparatus James Brown*- None.

Assistant Chief Fire Nick Verdicchio motioned to add Radio Policy under Old Business and Award's Dinner under New Business. The motion was seconded by Assistant Chief Edward Tevolitz. A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. *Safety Program*- The vests that are in the hands on the Board of Fire Commissioners.

2. Station Wear

The Board of Fire Commissioners were looking at cotton shirts. The cotton shirts do not have any safety options and most importantly these are worn under turnout gear. Hopefully this can get into the budget. Chairman Mike Ullrich recommended a sub committee be formed and report back for next month.

3. Homeland Security- Executive Session- None.

4. Recruitment and Training

The recruit class is only a 48-50 hour course this will be done one night a week and a weekend once in a while. Start forming a list of the guys that are interested in taking the class.

5. Tax Incentive Program

Chairman Mike Ullrich set up a tax incentive committee with Captain Justin Sabatino, Captain Steve Hoffman, Captain Anthony DeSarli and Lieutenant Constantino.

6. *Radio Policy*- Vice Chairman Assistant Chief Verdicchio handed out the radio policy (attached). A discussion on the radio policy was held at this time.

Capt. Justin Sabatino made a motion to accept the radio policy and forwarded the policy to the board. The motion was seconded by Assistant Chief Tim Hongo. A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of New Officers

Chairman Assistant Chief Mike Ullrich questioned the Committee for any nominations for the office of chairperson for the Officers Council. Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio and Assistant Chief Mike Ullrich were nominated for the office of chairperson.

1st lieutenant Joe Martus made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by 2nd Lieutenant Matt Lawrence. A voice vote was taken motion passed unanimously.

The committee members voted by paper ballot the results read
10 votes to Assistant Chief Mike Ullrich
7 vote to Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio.

Chairman Mike Ullrich questioned the Committee for any nominations for the office of vice chairperson for the Officers Council.

Chairman, Assistant Chief Mike Ullrich nominated Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio.

1st lieutenant Joe Martus made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Captain Anthony De Sarli.

One unanimous vote was cast for the election of Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio as the vice chairperson of the Officers Council.

2. Shelton High School Fire

Chairman, Assistant Chief Mike Ullrich told the council that everyone did a great job with the fire and we had a great turnout. The code violations will be addressed and this will take time. Stairwell "A" hose cabinet is still out of service and the hydrant is being addressed. Captain Justin Sabatino wanted to clarify having the third and fourth floor was a huge responsibility. The damage that was done was only done with a purpose. The crew that worked with him did a great job even with the animal rescue. The school's administration was really impressed with what the Shelton Fire Department did. Discussion was held about trying to secure a grant to obtain bigger fans.

Capt. Justin Sabatino made a motion for Chairman Mike Ullrich to take the views of displeasure on behalf of the Officer's Council about the public comments made in the paper and handle them in a manner that he feels is appropriate. The motion was seconded by 1st Lieutenant Dave Van Wart. A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

3. Award's Dinner

The council discussed the date for the awards dinner.

A motion made by Capt. Steve Hoffman to accept March 28th as the Awards Dinner Date. The motion was seconded by 2nd Lieutenant Matt Lawrence. A voice vote; was taken motion passed unanimously.

H. REMARKS/COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNCIL

Assistant Chief Paul Wilson, Assistant Chief Ed Tevolitz, Vice Chairman Nick Verdicchio, Deputy Fire Marshal Rockwell told the council about the great job at the Shelton High School Fire.

Captain Anthony De Sarli looking forward to working with everyone.

Chairman Mike Ullrich congratulations to new as well as past officers and welcomed everyone on board.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Assistant Fire Chief Edward Tevolitz motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. The motion was seconded by Capt. Steve Hoffman. A voice vote was taken motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Anglace

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Clerk

ALL TAPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE.