

FIRE COMMISSION

Town of New Canaan, Conn.
60 Main Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
203-594-3140

MINUTES OF April 10, 2007 Final and Approved

In Attendance:

Jack Horner, Chairman

Sven Englund, Commissioner

Roger Williams, Commissioner

Fire Marshal Fred Baker

FF David DiPanni

John Westendorf

FF Michael Tiani

Scott Ventrella

Chief David Jonker

Asst. Chief Karl

Asst. Chief Hennessey

FF Patrick Moley

Rachel Kirkpatrick

FF Al Buetti

Capt. Eugene Tiani

Meeting called to order by Chairman Horner at 7:31 PM

Review of the Minutes from the last meeting-

Minutes were read by Secretary Englund. A Motion to accept the corrected March, 2007 minutes was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved and entered into the Record.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported the contract with the IAFF should be finalized this month.

The Chairman requested Asst. Chief Hennessey to make the Town government bodies aware that the Homeland Security grants he has applied for the replacement for Engine 9 and new air bottles will require the Town to pay 5% of the granted amount. No procedure for this is known but we should inform the town early. He also requested copies of the grant applications be sent to our State and Federal representatives. Chief Jonker suggested the process for a special appropriation may serve as a model and we should meet with the Selectmen. Asst. Chief Hennessey said the awards would not be made before November 2007 and the Town CFO, Gary Conrad is aware of the applications.

The Chairman asked if a Truck Committee should be formed. Chief Jonker felt that September 2007 should allow sufficient time for the general specifications given the engine is simpler than previous apparatus. Commissioner Williams asked for budgetary numbers prior to the 2008-2009 budget season.

The Chairman asked for a report on the outcome of meetings with respect to the mercury spill at Saxe Middle School. Asst. Chief Hennessey, Fire Marshal Baker and Dr. Lagas from the Board of Education met. The Fire Marshal indicated the meeting was useful and corrections are being made at the schools. Cheryl Jones is aware of HAZMAT awareness training available. Asst. Chief Hennessey indicated the schools will be in prompt contact with the Fire Department for future incidents.

The Chairman noted the new Police Department dispatchers will transfer alarms of fire to CMED and coordinate the inter-agency communications.

The Chairman noted that the final public meeting on the 2007-2008 budget will be held April 18 at 7 PM in Town Hall. Commissioners Englund and Williams will attend with the Chief and others.

The Commission congratulated Chief Jonker on the succinct article in the New Canaan Advertiser covering the ISO issues.

Chief's Report:

Chief Jonker reported on the following:

There were 79 calls in March, of which 8 were fires, 6 were rescues and 33 were false alarms.

Driver Training on the road has been restarted. State Pump Operator course will be held for volunteers in April and May.

Tanker shuttle training will take place as part of the live burn drill this month. Commissioner Horner requested the Chief to invite the Public Safety Committee members.

Two dry hydrants have been installed at Silvermine Guild thanks to efforts of Commissioner Williams and funds provided by the late Mrs. Vogel's estate. The fire Marshal is pursuing new cisterns on Dan's Highway and Soundview Lane.

The Chief reprised the past month's training activity. April drill will cover car fires and there should be one or two opportunities for live burns in donated houses.

All apparatus are ready service with no problems known at this time.

Firefighter DiPanni reported the tank will be installed on the new truck April 23rd and will be inspected by Fire Department representatives at the end of the month. Unfortunately delivery is now being estimated as June to Excelsior Garage and here in July. A discussion of penalties for late delivery, discounted pricing and the terms and conditions of contract with Seagrave ensued. It was determined early communication with the supplier and representatives of Seagrave should be held.

The Chief reported the capital budget has the \$41,000 for truck equipment included in its current form.

Assistant Chief Hennessey reported 990 hours of training for all volunteer and career personnel in the past month.

Asst. Chief Hennessey reported in detail the 2007 budget to date. He related that most of the overage will come from the increased cost of fuel and electricity and that both of those line items were under-funded due to the un-anticipated increase in the price of fuel and energy. Line 1025 is high because the pay for Acting Captains will continue until the Captains can return to duty. The Holiday Pay and Holiday Buyback lines have still not been combined by the finance department so one is over spent and the other under spent. Callback is higher than the previous trend due to manning in preparation for the last month's storms. Voice/Data is also running high based on allocations from the Town. Some corrections have been made by the Finance Department and more are expected. No further CIRMA payments have been accounted for. For capital items the bathroom remodeling monies have applied in part to a new hot water heater.

Commissioner Horner said we should expect some help with the energy items from CFO Conrad next month.

Assistant Chief Karl had no report.

Fire Marshal's Report

Fire Marshal Baker reported there were 64 inspections, 6 plan reviews and 3 investigations for the month.

Notable activities for the past month included work at NCHS, Country School, 36 Pine Street sites.

The Fire Marshal will be working with Jim Cole on the Town Emergency Preparedness Plan.

In addition to the actions mentioned under the Chief's report, the Fire Marshal is working on recycling the gasoline tanks from the Exxon station for use as cisterns.

On the False Alarm initiative, the inclusion of the information flyer with the Town tax bills will cost about \$1,000 and he is working with Gary Conrad to find the monies to cover this.

The P&Z hearing on the Driveway Obstruction Policy tonight has approved the ordinance.

Old Business:

Facilities Issues:

Work on the kitchen proceeds according to Commissioner Englund.

New Business:

Assistant Chief Hennessey explained the town wide electric power load shedding process and assured the Commission the firehouse was safe.

Assistant Chief Karl presented a narrative of the 17 Maple Street fire last night. The alarm was received at 1922 hours. The building is a three story wood structure, multiple occupancy, of old balloon frame construction. Occupant's smoke alarms functioned. The occupants self evacuated or were evacuated by department personnel. Extinguishment took place on the three interior floors and from the exterior. Extinguishment was completed in half an hour. Investigation and overhaul was concluded at 2201 hours. The Red Cross was called for occupant relocation. One firefighter sustained a back injury but is expected to return to his next shift.

The Fire Marshal congratulated the department on a good stop in a construction noted for its susceptibility to flame spread.

The Commissioners thanked Assistant Chief Karl for his good work as ICO and all the Fire Department personnel for their superb work. Commissioner Englund thanked the chief officers for their training work. He related that the volunteer and career personnel felt the past months' training in forcible entry, rescue carries and thermal imaging camera operations were invaluable to their ability to operate with efficiency and effect the rescue of one elderly occupant.

The date of the next meeting was set by Chairman Horner for May 8, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the firehouse.

It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Sven R. Englund, Commissioner
Secretary of the Commission

Talley of Voting

Minutes of March 2007 were approved unanimously.
Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.