

FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF May 8, 2007

Final and Approved

In Attendance:

Jack Horner, Chairman

Sven Englund, Commissioner

Roger Williams, Commissioner

Fire Marshal Fred Baker

FF David DiPanni

FF Steve Gaeta

Robert Mallozzi

Chief David Jonker

Asst. Chief Karl

Asst. Chief Hennessey

FF Patrick Moley

FF Al Buetti

Paul Foley

Meeting called to order by Chairman Horner at 7:38 PM

Review of the Minutes from the last meeting-

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

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman asked about the needs of the Fire Department with respect to Governor Rell's STOCS funding plans. Chief Jonker replied, the Fire Department radios are up to date and can be reprogrammed to meet the STOCS channel requirements. Assistant Chief Hennessey said at most we would require a cable and software to allow us to reprogram the radios ourselves rather than have a service do it. Commissioner Williams asked Chief Hennessey to investigate whether funds would be available to NC Fire under the Governor's program to reprogram the radios

The Chairman asked for an explanation and remedial actions being taken to avoid another breakdown of the E911 dispatch and loss of dispatch services by CMED. Chief Jonker said that we have built in redundancy over the years. The failure of the SNET E911 causes the 911 dispatch to transfer to Darien Police Department. In consequence CMED lost communication with the transmitter. As a backup we can dispatch from the New Canaan Police Department or from our own radio console. Our console had a failed microphone key so another microphone was used. NCFD also has 3 UHB radios that can be used for dispatch on CMED channels. The failed microphone has been replaced.

Commissioner Williams asked about the cost for the current telephone lines. Assistant Chief Hennessey replied he had attended a meeting that day with other emergency services to investigate replacing the Private lines with a T1 service. The planning is for 1, 5 and 10 years. The T1 service will provide monitoring for fail over switching. He will check with Wilton on their level of service with T1 lines. A further discussion of Telco services ensued.

Chief Jonker explained the positioning and functions of the transmitter and repeaters and the redundancy of the radio services.

The Chairman noted that CERT had its first call out of state when they responded to the Ring's End fire in Vista, NY.

The Chairman asked about preparations for Memorial Day. Commissioner Englund said all was well and step off is at 9 AM. FF DiPanni said he had received donations for replacing the shrubs killed over the winter to be replaced by him in front of headquarters. The Commissioners thanked Dave for his work.

The Chairman noted there will be a table top exercise at Town Hall on May 18. Assistant Chief Hennessey said it would be a weather related scenario and the Fire Department will be represented.

The Chairman asked if he could obtain a copy of the video "Smoke Showing" for educational purposes related to explaining our Fire Department operations in succinct terms. Fire Marshal Baker will assist Commissioner Horner in this.

Chief's Report:

Chief Jonker reported on the following:

There were 119 calls in April, of which 12 were fires, 4 were rescues, 43 weather related service calls and 35 were false alarms.

The State Pump Operator course is being held for volunteers in April and May.

EVOC training by Captain Kimes for the career staff is proceeding.

Tanker shuttle training will take place as part of the live burn drill this month.

He is working with Fire Marshal Baker on cistern installations.

Firefighter Petrone has completed the update of the water source book and it is being printed for distribution.

The Chief noted the inspection trip to see the new tanker had been completed. FF DiPanni discussed the trip and its results. The Truck Committee members were happy with quality and specifications of the vehicle in progress. Minor modifications have been

noted to Seagrave and will be performed. The tanker should be completed by Seagrave about June 11, 2007. Then the dealer will mount light bars, radio, do stripping and other work prior to delivery in July. Through email photographs he will monitor the progress. A final inspection trip to Seagrave's plant is anticipated and the NCFD personnel will drive and operate the vehicle to insure it meets the specifications. A discussion of the contract was held briefly. Commissioner Englund stated he would rather have the vehicle late by 60 days and done correctly considering its lifetime in service to New Canaan is expected to be in excess of 25 years. Mr. Foley asked about the terms of the warrantee. The exact terms were not available at the meeting but cover different periods for the truck's subsystems, such as, tank, drive line, paint, structure, etc.

The Chief said May training for the Fire Department will include Aerial Ladder operations and RIT.

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

The Department budget has been approved by the Town. A \$2000 donation from the Exchange Club was received for fire fighting foam equipment and supplies.

The Chief said he is evaluating the replacement of the horn with a system of sirens as a backup alert system.

Assistant Chief Hennessey reported 634 hours of training for all volunteer and career personnel in the past month.

Asst. Chief Hennessey reported in detail the 2007 budget to date. Call back expenditures for the Ring's End fire in Vista and simultaneous storm increased substantially in April. The CMED service line item may possibly be in error and he is checking on it. The same is true for the Voice/Data line item. The Finance Department is running behind in postings so the payroll lines are his calculations. All energy related line items are over budget and this is true for all town departments. Insurance reimbursements from CIRMA are not updated.

Commissioner Horner said the commissioners are happy with overall budget management position with 85% spent and 86% of the year past.

Assistant Chief Karl had no report.

Fire Marshal's Report

Fire Marshal Baker reported there were 45 inspections, 8 plan reviews and 3 investigations for the month.

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

Investigations of the Pine Street cleaning establishment fire was traced to a failed chimney. The Town Hall electrical problem was traced to an uninterruptible power supply flooded during the storm. The High School sprinkler activation was found to be due to a loose lacrosse ball.

The Fire Marshal will attend the table top exercise on May 18.

The Fire Marshal has recovered the gasoline tanks from the Exxon station for use as cisterns. They are stored at the Highway Department lot.

On the False Alarm initiative, the inclusion of the information flyer with the Town tax bills is accomplished.

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

Mr. Foley asked about the problems with turn radius to accommodate the fire apparatus at the High School. Fire Marshal Baker said he would bring it up with the contractor. Assistant Chief Karl said it was tight when no cars are parked there. The gymnasium end will require about a 3 foot cutback to provide enough radius. Chief Jonker said they would speak with the Highway Department too.

Mr. Mallozzi thanked Fire Marshal Baker for his courteous and helpful inspections at his commercial building and the overall improvements seen in the Fire Marshal's office.

Old Business:

Facilities Issues:

Work on the kitchen proceeds according to Commissioner Englund.

New Business:

The Chairman asked to send a belated letter of congratulations to newest career firefighters.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to enter executive session with the Chiefs to discuss personnel and hiring matters. After discussion the Commissioners voted unanimously to close the executive session.

The date of the next meeting was set by Chairman Horner for June 12, 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 April 2007 were approved unanimously.

The motion to enter executive session was unanimously approved.

The motion to close executive session was unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.