

FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of November 13, 2007

FINAL and APPROVED

In Attendance:

Jack Horner, Chairman

Sven Englund, Commissioner

Roger Williams, Commissioner

Chief David Jonker

Asst. Chief Karl

Asst. Chief Hennessey

Fire Marshal Fred Baker

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Horner at 7:34 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of the Minutes from the last meeting-

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

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman stated that we need to help find a resolution to the problem experienced in obtaining reasonably current financial reports from the Town of New Canaan. All agreed that the lack of current account data makes the management of the Fire Department finances extremely problematic. Commissioner Williams stated he had discussed the issue with Selectman elect Mallozzi. It was decided to continue discussions with the Selectmen about the problem.

Chief's Report:

Chief Jonker reported there were 105 calls in October, of which 2 were fires, 8 were rescues, 48 hazardous condition and service calls and 37 were false alarms. The large call volume was attributed to the responses to the flood.

The Chief reported on his strategic initiatives. Primary focus was on the preparations for the ISO re-evaluation. The Ladder Truck mutual aid agreement with Wilton is expected to be signed within two weeks by both parties. All new equipment except tarps has been put in service. The tarps can be low cost "blue tarps" and will be purchased locally. Reports on training, pre-planning, and staffing for the last 12 months are being assembled. Hose test reports are being completed. He is working to get an old hydrant

from Aquarion for training. We are on schedule and there have been no slips since last month. Commissioner Williams asked if we still need to perform a pre-evaluation review. Chief Jonker replied that we did in order to smooth the actual re-evaluation process.

Captain Kimes will be delivering the Q course. STOCs has been programmed on all radios except the chief officer's radios. This will be done out of house. Fire simulation software is up and running thanks to Captain Smith and Candace Karl's efforts. The PPE committee has completed its evaluations and prepared a specification. An RFQ is with the vendor. Thanks for the efforts of Firefighter Petrone in this. The Mission Statement and Cultural Values will be presented by the Chief to the December meeting of New Canaan Fire Company. A succession plan has been established.

Chief Jonker reported training has continued with new Tanker 8. Driver training continues with the volunteers. A live burn training session will be held this Sunday. Fleet management training is in progress. Old Tanker 8 is now in Norwalk.

Assistant Chief Karl reported 644 training hours for all personnel in October, on a par with September's efforts. Ladder 3 will be tested November 15th. The probie manual will be out in December for review. The probationary lesson plans are updated. The Assistant chief reported the Engine 9 replacement Truck Committee is meeting regularly and with vendors. They expect to receive cost estimates from one or two vendors in time for budget preparation. He has received budgetary estimates from the Town Engineer to raise the door openings at \$25,000 each and to reinforce the floor at \$50,000.

Assistant Chief Hennessey reported the financial statements are missing the payroll entries and other line item updates. Some payroll has been re-allocated to the 2006-2007 fiscal year. We have received \$2400 in fees from test applicants. Some non-attendees are due refunds. We received \$1250 from the State for responses on the Merritt Parkway. This will be applied to offset over runs on the Tanker 8 radio system. Capital transfers are completed to purchase the SCBA units. Chief Hennessey said it will be hard to prepare next year's budget with incomplete accounting from the current year.

Assistant Chief Hennessey reported that 40 candidates were tested for the firefighter position. We will interview the top 10 candidates tentatively during the week of January 7-11, 2008. Captain Gesualdi will be retiring in the May to July time frame. Interviews for the career Captain/Lieutenant positions will tentatively be held in February 2008.

The Assistant Chief reported the T1 link to CMED will cost about \$21,000. This service is shared with NCVAC and the Police Department. The hardware to monitor the radio transmitters and repeaters is expected cost \$15,000. These quotes are from Northeast Communications.

Fire Marshal's Report

Fire Marshal Baker reported there were 78 inspections, 8 plan reviews and one investigation for the month. The investigation is related to vandalism in Lakeview

Cemetery. NCHS fire pump controller testing revealed problems that are being repaired. The Main Building at Silver Hill is under construction. Cisterns will be installed at the corner of Woodridge Circle and Wellesley Drive and the other at Parker's Glen Road. John Pokorny was hired as a new part time Inspector and is highly regarded by Fire Marshal Baker. The Fire Lane Ordinance is still scheduled for approval at the Town Council meeting set for December 19th. The Fire Marshal described his current working situation, after being flooded out in the Town Hall basement, as "horrible" and no end in sight. Commissioner Williams asked what was missing from the damages. The Fire Marshal replied he and his staff are missing records, equipment, reports, supplies and forms. He would like to move back into the basement space as soon as possible but there seem to be other options under consideration.

Commissioner Williams asked about the status of the gate in the Saxe Middle School parking lot. Assistant Chief Hennessey has checked and it is always up. Fire Marshal Baker will contact Hans Otto to determine the steps being taken to achieve a permanent solution.

Old Business:

Commissioner Englund reported the kitchen renovation is nearly completed with an expected opening for Thanksgiving.

New Business:

Assistant Chief Hennessey reported we will need the Selectmen's approval to apply for the Federal grant to install a fire alarm system in the firehouse. He expects to bring it up at the November 20th meeting if time allows. We will transfer money from the bathroom renovation if this is denied by Town or Federal governments.

Commissioner Englund reported that he and Captain Kimes will spearhead the Christmas Eve "Hot Cider and Pamphlets" fire prevention outreach to the community.

Commissioner Williams said he spoke to Fire Inspector Pokorny about volunteer recruitment in Weston. They have had much success attracting home office workers by offering reduced cost health insurance access to their town plan. It is a point based system where the points earned reduce the monthly premium after certain baseline firefighting requirements are met.

The date of the next meeting was set by Chairman Horner for December 11, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the firehouse.

A motion was made to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to close the Executive Session.

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 October 2007 were approved unanimously.

A motion to enter Executive Session was unanimously approved.

A motion to close the Executive Session was unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.