

FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of January 3, 2008

FINAL and APPROVED

In Attendance:

Jack Horner, Chairman

Sven Englund, Commissioner

Roger Williams, Commissioner

Chief David Jonker

Firefighter Al Buetti

Asst. Chief Karl

Asst. Chief Hennessey

Fire Marshal Fred Baker

Firefighter Patrick Moley

Kristiana Galvin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Horner at 7:07 PM.

The meeting was called to review the drafts of the Fire Department and Fire Marshal's budgets. The regular Fire Commission monthly meeting will be held on January 15, 2008.

The Fire Department operating budget was reviewed on a line by line basis. The following are notes of interest for the budget line items.

- Salary items up by about 8.5% reflecting the new contract with the IAFF.
- Overtime up because it has been historically underfunded and the request reflects the 2007 actual with step increases and new contract included.
- Overtime Sick reflects actual usage by career staff and is not fully funded.
- Overtime Callback is up to account for step increases and new contract wages. Fewer calls are eligible for callbacks but more firefighters are coming in for callbacks. Calls are becoming more expensive. As major construction projects qualifying for callbacks are completed (e.g. NCHS) the number of callback qualified calls should decline in 2008-2009.
- Salaries Differential will rise with stipends for new HAZ-MAT team members and Scott Air Pack certified technicians. The later may offset equipment repair costs.
- Holiday Sell item is now incorporated in Holiday line to improve tracking and reporting.
- Salaries Training is down because of the higher level of training for career staff in the past years has caught up to the department standards.
- Employee Fitness Program is funded at about one half the full benefit because not all eligible career staff take the benefit.

- Physicals are down because it was found to be overfunded.
- Repairs Mobile Equipment has no increase due to better training and more repairs performed in house.
- Training is up to cover broadened training goals for Chief Fire Officers and Aerial Ladder Operations, Tanker Operations and MRT refresher courses.
- Advertising is down after discussion of public fire education goals.
- Fuel Oil and Gasoline/Diesel lines are up per the Finance Department instructions but appear under funded.
- Equipment Personnel/PPE is up to cover new protective clothing standards for volunteers. The career staff PPE equipment upgrades mandated in the contract will be capitalized.
- Electricity and water items are up as per the Finance Department instructions.

The Fire Department Capital budget was discussed on a line by line basis. Based on life safety and response concerns the Radio/Pager item was increased. There was a discussion of grant possibilities to lower costs for the Town on some of the items. We have been successful and fortunate in the past year but there are no guarantees a grant will be accepted so items are shown fully funded. The capital items are prioritized as follows.

1. Apparatus Replacement – highest priority
2. OSHA Compliance
3. Communications Equipment Upgrade
4. Radios/Pagers
5. Apparatus Improvements
6. Fire Hose
7. Water Supply Improvement
8. Miscellaneous Equipment – Hose Roller, Hydraulic Hoses, Forcible Entry Training Equipment

Fire Marshal Baker had to leave for a family emergency before his draft budget could be discussed. In his absence the Fire Marshal's operating budget was reviewed. The budget does not reflect any possible increase in Fire Marshal Baker's responsibilities with respect to emergency operations in New Canaan.

It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Sven R. Englund, Commissioner
Secretary of the Commission

Talley of Voting

Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.