

# FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of February 12, 2008

FINAL and APPROVED

In Attendance:

Jack Horner, Chairman

Sven Englund, Commissioner

Roger Williams, Commissioner

Chief David Jonker

Asst. Chief Karl

Asst. Chief Hennessey

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Horner at 7:39 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 January 15, 2008 minutes as amended was made and seconded. A Motion to accept the February 2, 2008 Special Emergency Meeting minutes as read was made and seconded. A Motion to accept the February 6, 2008 Special Meeting minutes as read was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved and entered into the Record.

## **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman Horner said he would speak to his points under Old Business.

## **Chief's Report:**

Chief Jonker reported there were 81 calls in November, of which 5 were fires, 7 were rescues, 31 miscellaneous and service calls and 38 were false alarms.

The Chief reported on his strategic initiatives. The ISO re-evaluation is waiting for ISO to digest the data collected here and return in the spring for hydrant testing. Volunteer driver training continues. The Probationary Member Handbook is out for review and comment. Shipman's is measuring personnel for PPE. Accountability tags have been completed. Accountability software is requested to be purchased by the Town. The new SCBA equipment is in service. EMT and MRT recertification course begins this month. There were 1120 hours of training by all personnel. Commissioner Williams asked how many individuals this encompassed. This number is not currently tracked. Commissioner Williams asked what part of this represents training by volunteers. Assistant Chief Karl estimated that approximately 300 hours were volunteer hours.

Assistant Chief Hennessey went through the false alarm log on a call by call basis.

Assistant Chief Hennessey said the payroll data from December and January is not reflected in the budget spreadsheet he presented because the data has not been entered by the Finance Department. Now that the Building Maintenance account has exceeded the \$5000 allocated, he is sending the Maintenance bills to Michael Pastore, the Town Engineer, as previously agreed when the Town removed all but \$5000 from last year's budget. This is not working as expected and bills are not being paid for work performed. The Assistant Chief said Firefighter Baker would be trained in Chicago on the new meters and we can expect delivery of the meters after that. Assistant Chief Hennessey will attend Accountability Software training tomorrow.

Assistant Chief Hennessey reported that Captain Petrone began his new position yesterday. The time to hire the new firefighter is still a few weeks. The newly recommended promotions for Fire Lieutenant will become effective in July. The exam to fill the open Lieutenant position will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Commissioner Williams asked if that would allow any new candidates to take the test. Assistant Chief Hennessey replied that it would not due to the seniority requirement.

Assistant Chief Karl reported all trucks were in house and responding to alarms. Repairs to Engine 1 included a new light bar since the cost to repair the old one exceeded 50% of the cost of a new one. The water leak into the pump transfer case was repaired. The cause was corrosion of the piping in the heat exchanger. Other work was performed to repair lighting, install the hose bed covers and regular service interval maintenance. Commissioner Horner asked for a history and accounting of the service work performed on Engine 1. Assistant Chief Karl said he would provide it.

### **Fire Marshal's Report**

Fire Marshal Baker was absent due to the inclement weather. His written report showed he and his staff had completed 77 Plan Reviews, 5 Inspections and 2 Investigations in the past month. The cause of the garage fire at 64 Michigan Road is undetermined.

### **Old Business:**

Assistant Chief Karl reported no action by the Engine 9 Replacement Committee.

The status of the promotions and new hire is reported above.

### **New Business:**

Assistant Chief Hennessey asked if we should bring up a Building Committee as part of the new budget. Chairman Horner said that under the Town Charter it is our responsibility and we should get an estimate for consultants and form a new Building Committee. Assistant Chief Hennessey said Gary Conrad had encouraged us to attend the Firehouse Building convention. Chief Jonker will put this into action. Chairman Horner will speak to Gary Conrad to get a process together.

A discussion of means to deter false alarms was held. It was agreed to involve Brian Platz and the Building Department through the efforts of Fire Marshal Baker. The involvement of the Building Department is required to minimize contractor related false alarms. Chairman Horner has been investigating false alarm reduction efforts and fine systems in surrounding towns. Assistant Chief Hennessey asked what the Police Department does about burglar alarms. Commissioner Williams said burglar alarms are not treated as emergency calls. Assistant Chief Hennessey recommend the fine system be different for residential and commercial occupancies. Chief Jonker stated the commercial false alarms including high occupancy structures such as schools were the most expensive alarms to respond to due to callback of career personnel. Commissioner Williams brought up the point of having annual inspections. Commissioner Englund proposed a 12 month grace from fines if the systems were certified as inspected and passed by alarm system technicians.

The meeting viewed the 2005 Town Facilities Study as pertaining to the Fire Department. Problems were noted in the lack of supporting data for the estimated costs in the study.

As discussion of the budget presentation to the Board of Finance on February 26<sup>th</sup> was held. The presentation of the request for the replacement for Engine 9 was discussed. A discussion of the new item to fund the study of Firehouse renovations centered on obtaining a good estimate. Assistant Chief Hennessey will pursue this.

The date of the next meeting was set by Chairman Horner for March 11, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the firehouse.

It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Sven R. Englund, Commissioner  
Secretary of the Commission

Talley of Voting

The Minutes of January 15, 2008 were approved unanimously.  
The Minutes of February 2, 2008 were approved unanimously.  
The Minutes of February 6, 2008 were approved unanimously.  
A Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.