

FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of October 14, 2008

Final and Approved

In Attendance:

Jack Horner, Chairman

Sven Englund, Commissioner

Roger Williams, Commissioner

Asst. Chief Hennessey

Acting Chief Ed Karl

Fire Marshal Baker

Mr. Andre Van Parys

Ms. Wendy Van Parys

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Horner at 7:38 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of the Minutes from the last meeting-

September 9, 2008 Minutes were read by Secretary Englund. September 25, 2008 Minutes were read by Commissioner Williams. A MOTION to accept the September 9, 2008 minutes as amended was made and seconded. A MOTION to accept the September 25, 2008 minutes as amended was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved and entered into the Record.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Horner: Can we look into a fuel surcharge for false alarms above the allowed limit for any address? FM Baker will talk to Town Attorney.

Chief's Report:

Acting Chief Karl reported there were 63 calls, of which 4 were fires, 4 were rescues, 10 Hazardous conditions, 9 miscellaneous and service calls, 1 flood assessment and 37 were false alarms.

Acting Chief Karl reported 762 hours by all personnel. 2 drills were conducted this month on cold water rescue. Fire Service Instructor course begun. CERT training will be held at the Fire House on 11/08/08. Head sets installed in E1, E4, and L3; R5 and E2 will be installed soon by North East communications. Assistant Chief Hennessey said that more cables are needed. Commissioner Williams questioned whether the buttons were confusing? AC Karl said that the buttons are not visible when the headsets are worn anyway. AC Hennessey said other brands are the same. E1, E4, R5 out of service for

routine maintenance. L3 – turntable problem inspected by Seagrave and will go out to Excelsior tomorrow for repairs. 5” hose tests completed Sunday with thanks to the volunteers for help. AC Hennessey said that we will buy more 5” hose this year according to plan.

Q Class completed. Test date soon. Line Officer development continues. E9 replacement and budget number from last year should be carried forward to next years budget and agreed to add inflation numbers. Commissioner Horner added that the E9 replacement should be part of Town Master Plan discussion. Open House went well this past Saturday. Firefighter Mike Sasser returned to duty from injury time off. AC Hennessey said that the Budget Sick line item is under funded and that the Training line item is being stretched and we need to deny training requests. Overall the year to date operating budget is only 0.75% over budget. PPE invoice error in the Capital Budget needs to be found. GIS- All Dry hydrant & draft sites mapped. A meeting is planned with Tim Brown on Dry Hydrant funding.

Fire Marshal’s Report-

It is possible that the Dry Hydrants referenced above can be done with Administrative Approval as opposed to a full environmental study; this is being clarified prior to any work beginning.

143 Inspections, 4 plan Revues, 5 Investigations. Silver Hills Gray house will be completed soon.

- 36 Pine St. Wine Shop is in progress.
- St.A’s – Proceeding.
- NCVAC- Proceeding.
- Food Emporium’s permits issued, no work yet.

Investigations:

- Sewage backup at High School.
- Cava Restaurant chimney fire
- 311 Wood Street oil tank knocked over
- 143 Oenoke Ridge Road oil tank – no issues
- Mobil Station spill cleaned up
- 81 Elm Street buried oil tank filled in and clean fill replaced.

- P + Z updated regulations passed
- Woodridge Circle cistern burial: public bids open 10/23/08
- 721 N. Wilton Rd. for other tank
- West Road & Lost District is hopeful location for next tank

Old Business:

Sidewalks on Main Street

Pictures from Chief Karl (paper copies appended to minutes)

Chief Karl also has some video that we reviewed. Center Double Yellow line mostly visible. When L3 passes U1 in curve north of Woodland Road at normal travel speed 20-25 mph there is almost no warning of an approaching vehicle until almost too late. Chief

Karl would like wider lanes. Lanes measure 12' and are significantly narrower at Woodland Road. Fire Marshall Baker said that the Town Code is a minimum 13' for each of 2 lanes on a side street. Major roads are a minimum 20' per lane. Commissioner asked to whom do we go back on this? Commissioner Horner will send a note to PD & DPW and Town Council. Commissioner Williams made a Motion: The Chair will send a letter to PD, DPW and Town Council informing them that the Fire Commission opposes the narrowing of any road below the Town Code minimum and further opposes hard curbing where the roads do not meet Town code minimum width. This is for the safe travel of Fire Department emergency vehicles & the safety of other drivers. The MOTION was unanimously passed. Mr. Andre Van Parys said that a change of code could narrow roads. Commissioner Williams said that issue of code changes is under the control of Town Council. Ms. Wendy Van Parys requested that the Commission please talk to Town Council before their motion tomorrow night. Action by Horner: send letter and all pertinent information in morning to Town Council, DPW, and PD.

Status of Dry Hydrant- covered above

New Business:

Acting Chief Ed Karl was elected Chief by NCFC #1. Commissioner read the letter from NCFC#1 stating the same. A MOTION was made to accept NCFC# 1 recommendation and forward it with our recommendation to Board of Selectmen and a copy to George Maranis. The MOTION was carried by Unanimous vote of the Commission. Ms. Wendy Van Parys offered congratulations to Ed and added, "Your Father would be proud."

ISO

ISO Consultant RTI, Mr. Barry Nechis, will be invited for a review meeting here 10/21/08 at 7:30 PM.

Captain Socci talked to Aquarian Water Company and they said that they don't know where we have 88 non-compliant hydrants without streamers or that have small barrels. Commissioner Williams requested that we schedule a meeting with ISO. AC Hennessey will do so for approximately 2 weeks after the 10/21/08 meeting; target date is 11/12/08 at Town Hall.

Town Master Plan Task Force

Councilman O'Dea wants to meet soon to change entire budget process for next year and subsequent capital plans. Commissioner Horner commented that by his own "back of the envelope" calculation, if next years budget target was for a zero percent increase, then contractual payments for salaries, overtime, and other items will leave the department with approximately \$94,000 to operate for the year. AC Hennessey commented that his numbers leave \$110,000. We need an approximate \$350,000 increase in total operating expenses over this past year for funding the operating budget. Commissioner Williams asked that if the Town found itself in financial extremis, can we open the negotiations with IAFF on contract? All options must be explored. AC Hennessey commented that a zero percent increase in the operating budget actually leaves us looking at an equivalent to an 8% decrease because of the contractual increases. All unions in Town will see

across the board pain. On that note Chief Karl said that maybe we can open these discussions with union sooner rather than later.

On a separate current union item AC Hennessey said that the current contract will be modified so Officers cannot take a Firefighter's shift on O/T; that item is close to signature.

“To Do List” for public meeting with Mr. O’Dea.

- Accomplishments since 2003 – set
- Capital Projections- set
- Conceptual Budget – AC Hennessey has it
- Staffing Presentation – Set
- Continue justification of 6/6 manpower from Safety & O/T costs points of view
- Project # of calls eligible for O/T call back
- Show our historical reduction of 2/3 the number of eligible Call Back incidents
- Horner action: Set meeting with O’Dea for 10/21 at 6 pm
- Chief Karl action: meet with Kathleen Corbett and Neil Budnick (Board of Finance)

Next regular meeting scheduled for Wed., Nov. 12, 2008 (avoids Veterans Day Holiday)

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 9:10pm

Respectfully Submitted

/s/ Sven R. Englund, Commissioner
Secretary of the Commission

Talley of Voting

- The Minutes of Sept. 9, 2008 as amended were approved unanimously.
- The Minutes of Sept. 25, 2008 as amended were approved unanimously.
- A Motion was made that the Chair will send a letter to PD, DPW and Town Council informing them that the Fire Commission opposes the narrowing of any road below the Town Code minimum and further opposes hard curbing where the roads do not meet Town code minimum width. This is for the safe travel of Fire Department emergency vehicles & the safety of other drivers. The MOTION was unanimously approved.
- A MOTION was made to accept NCF# 1 recommendation that Ed Karl was elected Chief and to forward it with our recommendation to Board of Selectmen and a copy to George Maranis. The MOTION was carried by Unanimous vote.
- A Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.