

FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of December 9, 2008

FINAL AND APPROVED

In Attendance:

Roger Williams, Commissioner
Sven Englund, Commissioner
Firefighter Pitt

Chief Ed Karl
Asst. Chief Hennessey
Fire Marshal Baker

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

Commissioner Englund congratulated Commissioner Williams on his re-appointment for a three year term.

Review of the Minutes from the last meeting-

Minutes were not present and will be reviewed in January.

A **MOTION** to modify the agenda to hear the Fire Marshal's report due his required attendance at the Board of Finance meeting was unanimously approved.

Fire Marshal's Report:

There were 112 inspections, 10 plan reviews and 8 investigations by the Fire Marshal or his office during the month. A restaurant has submitted plans for a space at 36 Pine Street. The St. Aloysius rectory refurbishment is in progress. Work on NCVAC headquarters proceeds. Inspection of 81 Elm St. prior to granting a CO was conducted. Investigations included disposal of than an old oil tank at 311 Weed Street, site of a fire a number of years ago. The garage fire at 166 Poconock Trail was investigated along with the total loss of the home at 488 West Road.

Tonight the Board of Finance will consider again whether to devote money to bury the cistern at the corner of Wellesley Drive and Woodridge Circle.

A discussion of the proposed Dry Hydrant specifications and requirements was held.

Chief's Report:

Chief Karl reported for October there were 93 calls, of which 4 were fires, 3 were rescues, 20 Hazardous conditions, 11 miscellaneous and service calls, and 55 were false

alarms. In November there were 85 total calls of which 5 were fires, 2 were rescues, 14 Hazardous Conditions, 14 miscellaneous and service calls, and 50 were false alarms.

Chief Karl reported 1008 hours of training by all personnel in October and 914 hours in November. The pump transfer engagement mechanisms have been repaired on Engine 2. The mechanism will be tested while pumping when the weather permits without causing an ice condition on the roads.

The ISO plan is proceeding. We need to confirm that two telephone lines connect the NCPD to CMED to obtain an 8b rating in the non-hydranted area of town. The chiefs have been in discussion with Chief McCarthy and Scott Plank of the Norwalk FD to determine if they can more economically maintain our apparatus.

Assistant Chief Hennessey described the eleven point plan for the ISO remediation. Nine of the points have been completed as of the date of this meeting.

Commissioner Williams asked about water supply radio communications during the 488 West Road fire. Chief Karl said the department will move to a STOCS channel for water supply communications and an SOP will be updated or added if needed. Commissioner Williams asked about an apparatus driver leaving the vehicle during the fire as against the SOPs of the department. Assistant Chief Hennessey said this is included in the work rules for career staff. The work rules are under review. The revised work rules will be part of the contract with IAFF 3224 and will be brought up for adoption by New Canaan Fire Company No. 1.

Commissioner Englund said he found the decision to go from attack to defensive mode following the partial collapse of the residence at 488 West Road a difficult but necessary one to preserve firefighter safety. He expressed his confidence that Chief Karl and his officers will continue make the correct strategic and tactical fireground decisions.

Assistant Chief Hennessey reviewed the budget as it was last updated on October 30th. At that time we were less than 1% under budget. The Sick line is overspent and we will need a transfer to cover the overage. The repair to mobile apparatus line does not have enough money to cover scheduled maintenance on all apparatus. One option is to perform scheduled maintenance on the vehicles that get the most mileage and repair the other vehicles only when they are incapable of safely responding to alarms. Training for career personnel has stopped and a limit is placed on the Haz-Mat team training hours paid for by the department. Spending on capital account items has been frozen. Commissioner Englund noted that we are getting short on hose, no pun intended. The Assistant Chief noted that the IAFF had amended the labor contract for the terms of hiring back career firefighters and officers. An inspection of a subdivision addition off Wing Road resulted in a request to the developer to improve the access for fire apparatus.

A discussion of the capital budget priorities against the realities of the current financial crisis effect on the Town took place. Among other realities are the aging of Engine 1 in

front line duty and the lack of a backup pumper. A budget meeting will be held on December 19th at 10 AM in Town Hall.

The Fire Marshal returned to the meeting and reported the Board of Finance had approved the approximately \$20,000 in funds to bury the cistern at Wellesley Drive and Woodridge Circle.

Old Business:

Status of Dry Hydrants - covered above

New Business:

Election of a Chairman and Secretary for the Fire Commission is delayed until all members are in attendance.

Next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the firehouse.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Sven R. Englund, Commissioner
Secretary of the Commission

Talley of Voting

- A Motion to amend the agenda to hear the Fire Marshal's report first was unanimously approved
- A Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.