

FIRE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of December 22nd, 2009 Special Meeting

FINAL and APPROVED

In Attendance:

Roger Williams, Chairman

Sven Englund, Commissioner

Ken Campbell, Town Council

Christine Hussey, Town Council

Neil Budnick, Board of Finance

Firefighter Michael Sasser

Firefighter Haven Requa

Amy Jeffries

Chief Edward Karl

Assistant Chief Jack Hennessey

Fire Marshal Fred Baker

Robert Hammell, Town Council

Firefighter Lawrence Pitt

Captain Robert Petrone

Firefighter Paul Devon

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams at 7:39 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Town Council and Board of Finance. He explained the purpose of the meeting is to review the proposed Fire Department and Fire Marshal's budgets.

Assistant Chief Hennessey reported the 2009-2010 budget is on track.

Assistant Chief Hennessey then went through each line item of the proposed 2010-2011 budget. The budget proposal and supporting information are attached to final revision of these minutes.

Some highlights are; the salary lines reflect the step increases and a 2% COLA as recommended by the Town, Holiday time is shown fully funded. For Callback, Chairman Williams explained the current callback usage levels and the history of how we got to the point where it is unfunded for 2009-2010. Salary differential shows the costs of stipends for new certifications and a HAZMAT team of four. Acting Captain/Lieutenant pay reflects better budgeting numbers and is changed from previous revisions. The Laundry cost is increased to add back the career staff's towels. Repairs Mobile is increased to reflect the aging fleet's expected needs. Training is increased to allow a full program and retain the services of Captain Baker.

Christine Hussey asked if we included any incentives for the volunteers. Chief Karl replied that Darien provides a \$1000 tax abatement that affects their Town's income and is not a budget line item.

A discussion of the cost of providing a four man HAZMAT team of one career firefighter per shift was begun. It was reported by Assistant Chief Hennessey that the cost is about \$17,700. A discussion of the mechanics of the operations was held.

For the Fire Department Capital budget, Assistant Chief Hennessey said the communications upgrade will now cost approximately \$44,100. A general discussion of engine replacement was held.

Fire Marshal Fred Baker presented the Fire Marshal's Office budgets for 1010-2011. The main point of discussion was adding back two part time fire marshals, for two days a week, for 50 weeks of the year. The advantages for completion of safety inspections in occupancies that do not statutorily require an annual inspection was explained. In effect, these occupancies are now inspected every 7 plus years and this could be reduced to about 3 and a half years. State law requires an inspection period of not more than three years.

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 9:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Sven R. Englund, Commissioner
Secretary of the Commission

Talley of Voting

- A Motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.