

## Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting – September 19, 2011

Chair Fred Hackenyos brought the meeting to order at the main firehouse at 7:00 p.m.  
Present: F. Hackenyos, G. Bland, R. Quagliaroli, R. Gemme, P. Barrett and Chief Bellmore.

### Secretary's Report

Bland moved, Quagliaroli seconded to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### Financial Reports

Gemme moved, Quagliaroli seconded to accept the financial reports for August 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

### Activities Report

The Commission reviewed report for August 2011.

## **Old Business**

### Personnel Committee

- Recruitment & Retention – No action. Committee needs a new chair person.
- Position Descriptions – no action

### Proposed Ordinance – Snow Removal from Fire Hydrants

No action

### Budget Committee

No report.

### Chief's Report.

- Radio Project Upgrade – Waiting on T1 lines. Police Department researching.
- Fire Prevention Grant – Waiting to submit final report. FEMA is experiencing some computer problems.
- Firefighter Protective Equipment - Waiting to submit final report. FEMA is experiencing some computer problems.
- 2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – application has been submitted.
- Apparatus Committee – Committee meeting scheduled for September 20 to finalize specs. Should be going out to bid in a week.

## **New Business**

### Correspondence

Chief Bellmore shared a letter sent to Scott Bliss of Lomac Ltd. thanking him for his quick response and reasonable agreement on a rental of a Gator in anticipation of use during Hurricane Irene.

### Use of Department Vehicle to Attend Training

Chief Bellmore has received several requests from individuals in the Fire Department to use the department utility truck to attend training sessions. The Commission agreed that use of this vehicle would be at the discretion of the Chief.

### Request to Participate in School Program

The Suffield Public Schools social worker has approached Chief Bellmore with a request to supply jobs for some of the special education students at Suffield High School. After much consideration, Chief Bellmore does not believe the department can supply enough work for this program and also supervision would be a problem as staff may not be available in the buildings on a regular basis.

### Proposed Changes to Medical Examinations

The department physician has proposed changes to the current fire fighter physicals based on NFPA Guidelines for Periodic Exams. If these were to be implemented immediately, it would result in a \$6000 budget shortfall. Chief Bellmore recommended that the Fire Commission take this into consideration as they begin budget deliberations for 2012/13.

### Other Business

- Chief Bellmore reported that two Suffield fire fighters attended a Western Mass 9/11 tribute for a Suffield Academy alum who died in the World Trade Center.
- CT Explorer Magazine cited 9/11 services and listed those from CT who has assisted at Ground Zero. Several Suffield fire fighters were included.

## **Vehicles, Facilities, Equipment**

### Vehicles

- Engine 1 – Pierce has agreed to fix the rust problem at no charge.
- Tanker 4 – minor damage was one to the rear wheel fender trim. Part has been received and truck has been repaired.
- Replacement of State-owned S-10 vehicle – Chief Bellmore was approached by a local group who offered to purchase an ATV for the department. Since the Chief feels an S-10 or similar style vehicle would be more appropriate, he has asked if the donors would consider putting the money towards that purchase. They have agreed to consider that option. A committee must be formed asap to address this.
- Pump tests have been completed.
- The tower truck had an electrical problem that has been diagnosed and, hopefully, repaired. There is potential that this may become a larger expense in the future.

## Equipment

- Surplus Equipment
  - Old Portables and Mobiles – The Emergency Management Director has asked for one of the old portables and the Department of Public Works has requested two. Chief Bellmore will disable the fire frequencies and the “man down” button before providing these radios.
  - Old surplus equipment still stored at Bridge Street School.
- Annual hose testing is almost finished.

## Facilities

### Station 3

- Exterior door to apparatus bay at Station 3 needs to be replaced – no action
- Station 3 Emergency Generator – no action. No funding at this time  
Chief Bellmore suggested that perhaps this item could be added to the Capitol Expenditures listing as it has been on hold for quite some time.

## **Personnel**

### Applications for Volunteer Membership

- The application of Gary Bevilaqua tabled.
- Quagliaroli moved, Gemme seconded to approve the following applications:
  - Michael Muscatello – Firefighter
  - Ashley McMann – Firefighter
  - Edward Dias – Explorer
  - Kyle Eheander – Explorer
  - Brandon Marauis – ExplorerThe motion passed unanimously.

### New Recruits – Status Report

The Commission reviewed the most recent status report. Chief Bellmore stated that letters were sent to Geoffrey Miner and Gary Chlastawa who have not completed their requirements. Gary Chlastawa contacted Chief indicating that he was still interested in being a volunteer. Follow-up letters were also sent to Dan Carney, Michael Romano, Patrick Herring, and Robert Garretto stating that their acceptance be withdrawn due to lack of response. Patrick Herring contact the Chief and indicated he was still interested in volunteering.

Bland moved, Quagliaroli seconded to withdraw the acceptance of Dan Carney, Michael Romano and Robert Garretto as volunteer trainees in the Suffield Fire Department. The motion passed unanimously.

### Resignations/Change in Membership Status

- None

### Open Lieutenant’s Position

No action

Executive Session

Bland moved, Quagliaroli seconded to enter executive session at 8:40 p.m.

A personnel issue was discussed.

Returned to regular session at 9:10 p.m.

Adjournment

Hackenyous moved, Barrett seconded to adjourn at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allyson Kehoe  
Secretary pro tem