Town of Suffield

Board of Fire Commissioners

Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting – October 21, 2013

Chair Phil Barrett brought the meeting to order at the main firehouse at 7:00 p.m. Present: P. Barrett, R. Gemme, P. Christian, R. Quagliaroli, and Chief Flynn.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
Ethan Newsome shared his Eagle Scout project with the Commission. Ethan proposed building a stationary announcement sign to be placed in front of the main firehouse. The Auxiliary will be donating to this project and Ethan will solicit other donations and do fundraising. The project will cost about $1500 and should be completed next spring. Ethan will get the appropriate approvals from the First Selectman and Planning & Zoning.

Commission Mahoney arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report
Christian moved, Gemme seconded to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2013 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports
The Commission reviewed the operating budget year to date. Gemme moved, Christian seconded to accept the financials as presented.

Correspondence
Suffield Fire Department has received the Life Safety Achievement Award for 2012 for no life loss in any fires.

Activities Report

- The Commission reviewed report for September 2013.

Old Business

- Sale of Engine 2 – Five bids were received. A fire department in VT came in with the highest bid of $8500. The First Selectman has decided to go with a broker to see if the apparatus can be sold for more money. This will take another 60 days. We would still have the right to sell the truck to someone else if using the broker does not achieve the hoped for results. Commission Quagliaroli stated that the Commission should make a

motion to accept the high bid of $8500 as a show of agreement among the Commission. It was pointed out that only the First Selectman can make the decision to accept or reject a bid. Discussion followed. Quagliaroli moved, Christian seconded **that the Commission accepted the high bid of $8500 for Engine 2.** The motion failed 2-3 (Gemme, Barrett & Mahoney voting against). Commissioner Gemme stated that a minimum bid should be set before the bidding process begins.

- 2014 Meetings – Beginning in January 2014, Fire Commission meetings will move to the second Tuesdays of each month. Chief Flynn provided a list of dates for 2014. Quagliaroli moved, Mahoney seconded to **accept the proposed meeting dates for 2014.** The motion passed unanimously.

- Uniforms – Everyone getting a new uniform has been fitted. Chief Flynn will meet with the sales people tomorrow for the final time.

- Task Force 52 Drill – Chief Flynn reported that a successful drill was held at the end of September at Suffield High School. This involved staging a mock plane crash at the site.

- Dry Hydrants – We are waiting for some parts to complete the projects in West Suffield. Chief Flynn stated that there are four other locations in town being considered for dry hydrant installation.

- Amendment of Dedication of Engine 2 – Last month the Commission approved the dedication of Engine 2 to former Chief Tom Bellmore. As Chief Bellmore was much more involved in the purchase of Engine 1, the Commission would like to amend their approval. Quagliaroli moved, Christian seconded **to dedicate Engine 1 to former Chief Tom Bellmore.** The motion passed unanimously.

New Membership

Chief Flynn introduced Mason Rock, who will be moving from Explorer to volunteer firefighter. Mason will have his physical tomorrow. Chief Flynn reported that Sam Ho is joining the department as a volunteer firefighter and Bill Davis will move from Explorer to volunteer firefighter. It is hoped that these last two individuals will be able to attend a Commission meeting in the near future.

New Business

- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) – information is not available at this time due to the government shutdown. The Fire Academy will not be re-opening until November 2.

- ACCE Report – Commission Barrett and Chief Flynn provided a quarterly report to ACCE. Focus was on capital improvements of the generator at Station 4 (out to bid), Station 2 sprinklers (process to start in January) and the purchase of a pickup truck. We have been approved for $20, 000 for a pickup, which will only cover the cost of a used vehicle. Using a municipal lease/purchase agreement, a new pickup would cost $26,000 and last much longer. ACCE asked Chief Flynn for comparative info for both new and used. There was also a brief discussion of the proposed addition to Station 1.

Vehicles, Facilities, Equipment

- Pump tests have been completed. A loose bolt was found in Tanker 4. This has been repaired.
- Annual preventative maintenance has been started
- Hose testing has been completed.

Personnel

- A letter of resignation has been received from S. Adams effective October 15.
- A request for leave of absence from S. Brinker for one year was received. Mahoney moved, Gemme seconded **to approve a leave of absence of one year for Sue Brinker as requested.** The motion passed unanimously.
- Chief Flynn has had a communication from a former member regarding monetary assistance in some training. As this individual is no longer involved with SFD, a letter will be sent denying this request.

Fire Marshal Report

- SHS Fire Pump – The Town is working on an RFP to correct the issues.
- Monthly Report – will be available at each Commission meeting
- Hilltop Farm – Friends of the Farm at Hilltop (FOFAH) has purchased the property and would like to use the barn for events. They will need a sprinkler system in order to be permitted to do this. Per CT Water Co., there is not enough water coming from Hickory Street to run sprinklers. FOFAH has hired a consultant to investigate further.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allyson Kehoe
Secretary pro tem