



STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

Michael A. Pavia, Mayor

629 Main Street
Stamford, CT 06901
Tel (203)977-4673
Fax (203)977-4658

Leandro Rizzuto, Jr
Vincent J. Freccia
Franklin Melzer
Rev. Dr. Robert W. Perry
Prasad Tungaturthy

Draft Minutes -Regular Meeting of the Fire Commission held Tuesday, March 26, 2013

Roll Call: Chairman Rizzuto called the meeting to order at 5:37pm. Those in attendance were: Commissioners Rizzuto, Freccia, Perry and Melzer; Chief Conte, AC Smith; Director Jankowski Absent: Commissioners Tungaturthy; Fire Chief Antonio Conte

Public Comment: None

Fire Commission Committees:

Commissioner Melzer reported on the anti-blight committee:

- Reviewed some of the procedures followed in order to enforce Blight directives
- Commissioner Freccia who is counsel to blight committee reported on foreclosed properties & fines collected
- Report from Blight officer of approximately 10 properties certified as blight, letters will go out
- Some Blighted properties also had issues related to Public Health & Safety; Fire hazard; building violations. In addition to the certification letter the Committee notified the respective departments requesting the departments notify property owners of the said violations.
- The next meeting was not scheduled at this time but the date will be determined after the level one hearing scheduled in April.

Chief's Report:

- Directives approved by the Fire Commission went out to all of the Volunteer fire departments. As of this date one department, Glenbrook FD, has complied with the directives 100% percent. Belltown FD is missing some components; Turn of River FD(TORFD), Long Ridge FD, and Springdale FD have not complied with any of the directives at all.
- There is a court date set for June 4 and the City has decided to countersuit; additionally a hearing is set for tomorrow regarding an injunction.
- Chief Conte received an FOI request from Angela Carrella for a breakdown of number of calls that TORFD & Springdale FD responded to in the last 3 months which was forwarded to Legal department for advice; Chief Conte responded as advised by Legal. The numbers do not look favorable for the respective departments. Discussion took place. Chief Smith noted that the public is not being short changed as the SFD responds to all calls but the calls are not being augmented by volunteers as advertised. Long Ridge responds to all calls however the City does not know if they are staffed and equipped as Long Ridge has not complied with the directives. Commissioner Melzer stated that this may result in a considerable waste of time, energy and money. Discussion took place as to the potential of legal ramifications regarding liability of safety to firefighters by not having followed the "two in two out" directive. Additional discussions took place as to following protocols and what course of action may be taken to enforce or penalize for non-compliance of directives. Additionally, Chief Conte noted that names have not been submitted for the position of Assistant Fire Chief of Volunteer service. Discussion took place as to the Charter revision and what factors of the Charter revision are noted in the injunction. Discussion to place as to the safety of the City and liability against the City. What are the

FIRE COMMISSION CONTINUED

issues are from a Risk management standpoint and how ultimately the City bears the burden. Discussion continued. Pending the outcome of the hearing tomorrow and what the Judge will order will decide as to how the Commission would proceed with regard to presentation to the Board of Representatives or other Boards for compliance to the Charter by Volunteer departments.

Motion: Commissioner Freccia moved to go into executive session to discuss the Court case, seconded by Commissioner Rizzuto and unanimously approved at 6:00pm.

Motion: Commissioner Freccia moved to come out of executive session, seconded by Commissioner Rizzuto and unanimously approved at 6:13pm. No action was taken in executive session.

- Incidents: Two weeks ago there was an industrial accident where a steel beam fell on a worker in a ditch and the SFD did an incredible job with rigging in order to get the beam off the gentleman who had his leg crushed by the beam. This leads into personnel did this rescue under tough conditions as the Rescue apparatus that responded was not fully equipped with equipment normally carried as the normal Rescue apparatus was at the factory for repairs in Michigan.
- Apparatus:
 - The Rescue apparatus chassis has broken down; the company repaired it under the warranty however there was problem with the repair. It is now being looked at by another company to see what may be repaired and the cost. At this time there is not a fully stocked rescue for the City and that is an issue. There is not a back-up piece of apparatus. Mutual aid and request to borrow a piece of apparatus from a neighboring department is being looked at.
 - The fleet is “shot”. Discussion took place.
- Personnel:
 - A Lieutenant is taking a job somewhere else and is leaving April 22, 2013. He has requested a leave of absence and was granted a leave of absence for a three month period but will be retiring after the three month period. Discussion took place as to making a provisional lieutenant to cover the leave of absence period as to not incur the potential overtime caused by leave of absence.
 - Firefighter who is potentially unable to perform duties due to a terminal illness has been offered a package to leave.
 - FLSA – the Chief issued a Directive stating that SFD firefighters are not allowed to work for any of the volunteer departments within this municipality.

Motion: By motion duly made the minutes of the January 30, 2013 and February 25, 2013 meeting were approved by the Commission.

Discussion took place as to the Joint Arson Investigation Team procedures as presented by Director Jankowski.

Motion: Commissioner Melzer moved to adopt the Joint Arson Investigation Team Procedures. Seconded by Commissioner Perry and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: By motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm