STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

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Vincent J. Freccia
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Rev. Dr. Robert W. Perry
Prasad Tungaturthy

Minutes -Regular Meeting of the Fire Commission held Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Roll Call: Chairman Freccia called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Those in attendance were: Commissioners Freccia, Melzer, Mirkin and Tungaturthy; Dir/AFC Jankowski. DC's Lorenz, Conroy, Pritchard, Jones, Roach. Chief's Jacobellis, Teitelbaum, Velez, Didelot. Absent: Commissioners Perry
Public Comment: None
Fire Commission Committees: None
Minutes: By motion duly made the minutes of the June 5, 2013 & August 13, 2013 were approved. Minutes of the May 6, 2013 & March 26, 2013 were tabled.

Chief's Report:

- Incidents: the Chief gave a briefing about the Fire incident occurring on 8/25/13
- Personnel:
  - Fire Mechanic retired and will be replaced by a UE position
  - The transition of the Fire Marshal is going well.
  - There are approximately 6 FF vacancies. The department applied for the 2013 grant, asking for funds to cover the 6 positions. Discussion took place as to the current eligible list, its age, if a new test would be given and if a new class would be started based off the current list.
  - The department physicals are being performed by Greenwich Hospital (GH). The department is working on the logistics with GH.
- Apparatus:
  - The department is in the process of purchasing three new pumpers by KME. One piece of apparatus should be online by mid-October 2013 and two should be online by mid-March 2014.
  - Apparatus are all in service except E2. TOR #62 is in as E2.
  - E14 has a rotted frame
  - The department is utilizing a loaned engine from New Canaan
  - E12 did not pass pump test
  - Operation Road Base System was discussed as its ability to schedule maintenance
- Budget: Chief Jankowski stated that the budget is on target. There was some increase in overtime in August due to long term sick & school vacations. Now that school started overtime is anticipated decrease.
- Training-Chief Jankowski stated that the Commission did a great job in its selection in the last hiring process.
  - Probationary Firefighters: Training is working on skills evaluation. Company officers are working on the subjective evaluations. The probationary firefighters are due to come off probation next month. All reviews shall be given to Chief for review and approval to come off probation.
  - Leadership training is scheduled for the week of October 5, 2013
  - Ladder Testing will occur the week of 9/23/13
  - 911 Ceremony will be held on 9/11/13 in front of Station 5

Personnel Issues: One firefighter was arrested.

Good & Welfare: Chairman Freccia stated that this was an open meeting for all to put out anything that they would like to discuss, as the objective was to get a conversation going. Those in attendance were asked by Chairman Freccia to introduce themselves. All in attendance identified themselves and thanked the Commission and the Chief. Chief Jacobellis of TOR, thanked the Commission for the invitation to the meeting, and thanked Chief Jankowski, stating that it is a move in the right direction moving forward, taking everyone's interest into consideration across the board.

Chief Jankowski stated that there was a staff meeting with the Career and Volunteer Chief's that discussed some important issues covering items such as communication; accountability; command on the scene in the Volunteer districts; and how a scene should look with command.

An informal discussion took place regarding the merger, the roles and functions of personnel; the selection process of the Assistant Chief of Volunteer and the benefits of filling the position; the background check associated to the position and who performs it; merging of the departments into a single department; committees formed and their functions; regular monthly meetings, etc.

Chief Jankowski stated that committees have been formed between the Career Deputy Chief's and the Volunteer Chief's and that he will be receiving drafts from committees and then all Chief's will discuss and formulate input.

Commissioner Freccia asked how the Commission could help administratively.

- Discussion took place regarding safety concerns at the training facility. Chief Jankowski stated he will be addressing all concerns and will take care of it.
- Copies of Charter Changes were requested and the chapters affecting the Fire Service were identified and how to get them.
- Question of what the Volunteer law suit was about, however it was stated that it could not be discussed. The trial start date is September 10th.

Commissioner Mirkin asked about the additional appropriations going forward for the Volunteer departments, stating that the Board of Finance is requesting an oversight of expected funding and past expenses, regular response time, projected expenses and actual expenses. Discussion took place.

Commissioner Melzer asked of the Chiefs of the Volunteer departments that should the City prevail in maintaining the charge of the charter, are the Volunteer departments prepared to submit a name [for the Assistant Chief of Volunteer]. Discussion took place.

Commissioner Freccia asked does the Chief of the SFD have ability to discipline a member of the Volunteer Fire departments. Discussion took place. Commissioner Freccia offered the service of the Commission for appeals of discipline of Volunteer member of each department.

Commissioner Melzer thanked both the Chiefs of the Volunteer department and the Career Departments and left the meeting.

Commissioner Freccia stated that the Commission will add to their agenda, anytime necessary, for Volunteer issues, but that the Chain of Command should be to the Chief of the City of Stamford Fire Department then to the Commission.

Commissioner Mirkin asked the Chief's what moral has been like. Discussion took place. Commissioner Freccia stated that he would be available to go to general meetings of Volunteer Companies to discuss any topic.

Training was discussed as to the needs of the Volunteer departments. It was agreed that different aspects of training shall be provided to meet the needs of the Volunteer departments as well as the need in tandem with the Career departments. The training division shall coordinate training accordingly once training certificates are established.

Adjournment: By motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm