

BOARD OF FIRE CHIEFS

SEYMOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

1 FIRST STREET
SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT

Meeting Minutes September 8, 2008 Citizens Engine Company

Chiefs Attending: Scott Andrews, Tom Tomasheski, Jim Smith, Dale Cann

Meeting called to order at 7:38pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made to accept August Meeting Minutes w/ 1 correction by Asst. Chief Tomasheski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Smith. Approved 4-0

Correspondence:

1. Fire Marshal Wetowitz requested that the Board of Fire Chiefs come up with the funds to purchase fire prevention material. He stated if they could not, the individual companies would have to be asked if they could purchase the material for their response area, since he has no money in his budget to cover this.
2. Deputy Fire Marshal Fritz handed in the latest list of Knox Boxes with their specific locations.
3. Letter received from State of Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell, declaring September 6th, 2008 "Firefighters Day". Along with her letter was a copy of the Proclamation to be displayed in both firehouses. She also expressed her thanks for the services and heroism by Connecticut Firefighters.

Chief's Report:

Health Report:

- Chief Andrews said he has been asked about physicals lately. He said he is having Clerk Oczkowski run-off a current copy of expired physicals. Chief Andrews noted that there was a Chief's workshop and changes have been made to the current physical standard, according to NFPA 1582 qualifications. Changes include: all members will annually receive interval medical histories, heights, weights, vital signs, and 3-lead EKG's. These results will then be mailed to Griffin Health Services for review. Stress testing will now be done on members who are the ages of 40-49 every 3 years, ages 50-59 every 2 years, and age 60 and older every year. Chief Andrews said these proposed changes would need to be signed off by Griffin Health Services. The regular physical schedule will stay the same, members who are the ages of 29 or younger every 3 years, 30-39 every 2 years, and 40 and older every year.

Motion made to accept changes to the physical standard by Asst. Chief Cann, 2nd by Asst. Chief Tomasheski, Approved 4-0

Maintenance Report:

- Both companies handed in maintenance reports.
- Asst. Chief Tomasheski noted that Town Mechanic Tom Jensen is in the process of completing DOT maintenance & oil changes.
- Citizens: low voltage alarm issue on E-13 was a broken fan belt, power module on T-14 water valve will be replaced, and bent valve stem on tire of T-14 was taken care of.
- Great Hill: antennas missing, E-18 radio interference with ignition continues, prices being obtained for boat trailer tires, and Gator maintenance complete.
- Chief Andrews asked that fuel card numbers be added to the fuel logs so he can review them with the reports from Town Hall.
- Asst. Chief Tomasheski asked if the Scott Bottles from Citizens have gone out for hydro testing. He noted that the P.O. has already been cut. Per Lt. Lewis and Engineer Tony Carrubba, they have not gone out as of yet, but will call this week to set up appointment.

Training Report:

- Asst. Chief Smith said the Surface Water class was well attended.
- Asst. Chief Smith noted that Tom Eighmie posted NIMS class dates and also emailed other valley towns the dates as well.
- Hybrid class sign-up to be posted, elevator class scheduled for October, and walk-thru of new building on Bank Street to be set up with Fire Marshal Wetowitz.
- Chief Andrews said that a mandatory training class (*Attitudes in Volunteer and Combination Departments*) for Chiefs and Officers is being held at the State of Connecticut Fire Academy on Saturday, October 18th. He also reiterated that more mandatory training will be held in the future and attendance needs to remain up.

Old Business:**Review Status of Dive Lt. Position:**

- Interim Dive Lt. Chris Drugonis explained in open forum, the status of his training. He stated he has been unable to take a class because the class that was held in August conflicted with his schedule and the next closest class is in Maryland. He said he has been in contact with Dive Rescue International about hosting a class. Chief Andrews asked if he knew of any other vendors whom offer the certification program. Asst. Chief Tomasheski said he knows of one Mr. Drugonis could look into in Danbury. Chief Andrews said the term of his interim position was to be re-evaluated in 90 days. Since he has not completed a certification program, he is unable to be promoted to a permanent position. Chief Andrews asked Mr. Drugonis to look into other vendors and report back to this board next month with information.

Portable Radio Programming:

- Chief Andrews said Tom Eighmie has completed radio programming at Citizens and is still working on the Great Hill radios.

- Asst. Chief Tomasheski said Tom Eighmie emailed him a list of issues, including but not limited to: 1 missing portable, speaker mikes, and batteries. Chief Andrews said the portable is not missing and he believes is accounted for.

R-17 Update:

- Committee member Ken Gabinelli stated truck remains under budget and is looking good. He traveled out to the mid-west to see the truck. He said the plan is that the truck will be driven to the east coast (Rhode Island) in a few weeks for lettering and once the lettering is complete, the truck will be at Great Hill for tool placement.

Firefighter Photos On Scenes:

- Chief Andrews said photo-takers need to get permission from Incident Commander. He reminded that members who are out of service, on worker's comp. or medical leave, can not be on-scene. He said someone could officially take on the responsibility of department photographer, if they cannot carry on the duties as an active member. Chief Andrews said it needs to be designated. He reminded Officers to caution members, not to put pictures on the Internet that are incriminating or identify a victim/patient.

Other:

- Lt. Lewis handed in Citizens gear list. Great Hill did as well and the lists were discussed briefly.

New Business:

- Asst. Chief Tomasheski said losing antennas off apparatus is becoming a problem. He suggests driving around respective response areas noting low tree limbs, so the Department of Public Works could be notified.
- Asst. Chief Tomasheski said the Pumpkin Festival is scheduled for Sunday, September 21st. Citizens is responsible this year for providing a crew. Lt. Willis said E-10 as well as the Gator would be staffed. Asst. Chief Smith said the State Convention is also on that weekend. Citizens will be bringing E-13 and Great Hill will be bringing T-19 to the convention.
- Asst. Chief Tomasheski discussed highway calls where apparatus requests to go up an on-ramp the wrong way. He said he was on a call where it was confirmed by police and dispatchers that Rte.8 was shut down and to proceed the wrong way, when in fact that was not the case. He said it needs to be confirmed from an Officer/Chief whom is already on scene.
- Asst. Chief Cann said he has been working on a tanker drill with Bethany and Oxford. He said the main focus would be using vests to identify people who are involved with the dumping sites to eliminate confusion. Asst. Chief Tomasheski said he would also like to see both companies involved in reverse roles. Citizens will perform pumping operations and Great Hill will perform the ladder operations. Asst. Chief Smith said the NFPA is developing new vest standards. More information to follow.

- Asst. Chief Smith said the Firefighter I class would now include a 48-hour HazMat class.
- Lt. Lewis said there are 2 active members at Citizens who are in need of pagers.
- Fire Police Captain George Decker handed in a broken speaker mike.
- Mike Gardella (Communication Services) was asked to attend this meeting by Asst. Chief Tomasheski to help answer some communications questions, especially Great Hill concerns with the radio service. It was noted that recently the tower at Great Hill was struck by lightning. Mr. Gardella noted that issue has not been completely rectified. He did say that the pager transmitter was not hit. Mike noted that the current usage is off one repeater (Progress Drive) and the initial setup was designed for the use of 2 repeaters. He said the Great Hill repeater would not cover the downtown area. Asst. Chief Smith asked what the options are for better service. One idea in the works is to use a repeater at Oxford High School or possibly one on Citizens Steeple. Mike said the Oxford Board of Education has received a letter stating the request for usage space. He is unsure of a time frame, but the river area may still be a problem spot. Mr. Gardella explained the buzzing sound that is heard from the pagers couldn't be blocked out. Chief Andrews asked him if Smith Street was a dead spot. Mike was unaware of an issue. Chief Andrews said he was at a call where outside operations couldn't hear inside operations. Asst. Chief Tomasheski asked Mike if he could report back to this board with an update on the status of Oxford High School as soon as information was available and thanked him for coming.

Fire Police Report:

- Nothing to report per Fire Police Captain George Decker.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session: None

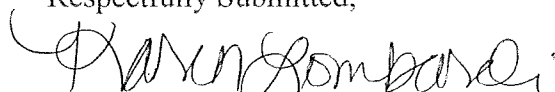
Requisitions: Please see attached.

Motion made to accept requisitions as discussed by Asst. Chief Smith, 2nd by Asst. Chief Cann. Approved 4-0

Motion made to add 16 sets of turnout gear totally \$31,248.00 to the requisitions by Asst. Chief Tomasheski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Smith. Approved 4-0

Motion made to adjourn at 9:40pm by Asst. Chief Tomasheski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Smith. Approved 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,


Karen Lombardi
Recording Secretary