



BOARD OF FIRE CHIEFS

SEYMOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRST STREET
SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 4/15/15
TIME: 8:40 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2015

7:00p.m.

Great Hill Hose Company

Chief's attending: John Cronin, Michael Lombardi, Thomas Tomasheski, and Doug Zaniewski.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. March Minutes:

Motion made to accept January Minutes made by Asst. Chief Tomasheski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Zaniewski. Approved 4-0.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Unfinished Business-

A. Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated that Captain Nelson provided driver training program. This will be a department wide training program. Chief Cronin stated that Tanker 19 needs to be added.

Motion to accept driver's training program as presented with addition of Tanker 19 made by Asst. Chief Zaniewski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Tomasheski. Approved 4-0.

B. Asst. Chief Zaniewski asked about the dive team plan. Asst. Chief Tomasheski stated they have been working thru the winter and have had some run-ins with the high school pool availability. He also stated there is a tentative meeting scheduled for April 19th at Great Hill. Asst. Chief Tomasheski stated that an inventory of equipment has been done.

Asst. Chief Zaniewski asked about officers of dive team being in attendance at chief's meetings. Asst. Chief Tomasheski stated that the officers of the dive team couldn't be in attendance because they were all working.

Chief Cronin would like to reallocate haz-mat 7 over to the dive team. Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated he can't support this until a plan is presented to the chief's.

6. Al Rochelle-Convention-no discussion.

7. Accountability:

Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated that the new accountability boards have been purchased and the new SOG/SOP SFT 3 reflects the changes. The changes to the SOG/SOP are designated first due engines will be equipped with the new larger boards.

Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated that the accountability system will be transitioned to Salamander and no longer use the metal tags.

Motion to approve the revision to SOG/SOP SFT 3 made by Asst. Chief Tomasheski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Zaniewski. Approved 4-0.

Asst. Chief Tomasheski asked if the board for Ladder 14 was found. Chief Cronin stated there was never a board for that vehicle.

8. Physicals:

Chief Cronin stated that he has handed out lists to both captains. Chief Cronin also stated that going forward the SOG/SOP will be strictly enforced and if any member hasn't gotten physical by expiration date members will be taken out of service.

9. Truck 18:

Chief Cronin stated that the utility vehicle is on order and should be in within the next 30-60 days.

10. OSHA training:

Asst. Chief Lombardi stated that SCBA training is completed.

Captain Edwards stated that about 90% of Great Hill has completed hazmat training. He also stated that all members have been fit tested. Captain Edwards also stated that he has spoken with Paul Possenti for blood bourne pathogens.

11 & 12. Driver/firefighter awards and Ladder 14 drivers/pump operators:

Asst. Chief Tomasheski stated that he would like to see drivers cross trained between both houses. He also stated that he would like to see firefighters be able to receive incentives to encourage better turn out. Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated he is looking into what programs can be used for incentives.

13. SOP/SOP:

Asst. Chief Zaniewski asked if everyone had received Deputy Fire Marshal Willis' email regarding line of duty death procedures. Asst. Chief Tomasheski stated he agreed with it.

Motion to adopt "Cancer SOP" made by Asst. Chief Zaniewski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Tomasheski. Approved 4-0.

14. Public Comment: none

15. Executive Session with Michael Gardella Jr. regarding personnel matter.

Michael Gardella Jr. requested the executive session be open.

Chief Cronin stated that this is concerning the fire on Clifton St. as a driver of the first due apparatus. There are concerns about improper tactics and safety violations. Chief Cronin stated he wasn't there so most of the information came from other officers and chiefs. Captain Nelson stated he feels it was lack of communication. He feels that if Mike Gardella had communicated that he missed the hydrant and was changing tactic there wouldn't be any issues. Michael Gardella has the tapes of the call. He stated that NW stated the hydrant was at Clifton and Johnson. He stated his concern was not hitting the police cruiser. He stated that he has received input and one source told him to push the cruiser with the engine. After that he went back to skills that he has learned that are in books and taught at the academy. He gave instructions to 2 firefighters. He yelled to FF Oczkowski driver of ladder 14 that he was going to layout. He only had 2 firefighters with him. FF Gardella stated he laid out 2 ½ with high rise pac and adapter. He then instructed the 2 firefighters to use the 2 ½ with high rise pac then he was going to use 5 inch with hand jack. He stated he could have had water in 15-20 seconds. Chief Cronin asked what he was going to hand jack to and what he was going to attach it to. FF Gardella stated to Ladder 14. Chief Cronin asked if prior to moving the apparatus were other lines deployed off the truck. FF Gardella stated there were lines pulled off

the truck but he doesn't know who deployed them. Chief Cronin asked when the truck was being moved what happened to those lines. FF Gardella stated as he pulled away someone yelled to him that he was dragging a line. He stated that he only knew of the 2 ½ and asked who had pulled them and received no answer. FF Gardella then stated he disconnected the last length from the truck and threw it over the ladders and then went up the street. He stated that 1 of 2 firefighters completed the task and the 2nd didn't. Asst. Chief Lombardi asked if FF Gardella communicated to anyone that he was changing his task. FF Gardella stated he had no portable with him. His portable was in his turn out gear in the truck. He stated that 14 said 11 was going to hit the hydrant at Old and Clifton. Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated that more than just tactics being changed. He stated his biggest issue was calling over and over again for water and getting none. FF Gardella stated it was a sequence of events. From the tapes at about 11 minutes in call was made to 11 to charge the line with 2 additional calls for water following that. He stated the lines that were being called for were his and he was 13. Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated he asked for Orange line to be charged. FF Gardella stated no it was asked of 11 on tapes. Asst. Chief Lombardi asked how FF Gardella acquired the tapes. FF Gardella stated he called NW. Asst. Chief Lombardi asked if that is allowed. Chief Cronin stated no. Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated the way we constantly train is firefighter on line asks for it to be charged. FF Gardella stated it was specifically asked the truck to charge the line. He stated this was a series of events. He also stated he doesn't turn on water until told to. Asst. Chief Zaniewski that one thing is when your 1st due apparatus job is to get water to the fire. He believes it all starts with driving away without communicating what was happening. He also stated that no one other than a fire police member gave a size up when arriving on scene. FF Gardella stated he was the only one who received a letter from the Board of Fire Chiefs. One Firefighter who was given a direct order didn't follow. He wanted to know why that firefighter wasn't asked to be here. Chief Cronin stated that was out of his control and that this all stems from him moving the engine without communicating it. He stated the tactical shift attempted to do would have been far down the line of choices. Once lines were deployed the apparatus was moved. Chief Cronin stated that FF Gardella violated an SOP/SOG by moving a truck without looking 360 degrees to make sure the truck was free of obstructions. FF Gardella asked about who moved the line off the truck. Chief Cronin stated it doesn't matter. He then stated that FF Gardella was going to be given a verbal written warning. FF Gardella stated he refuses to accept it. Chief Cronin then stated that was fine but it will be going into his file. FF Gardella then stated he would be filing a formal complaint that chief's were incompetent at scene by failing to they were on scene and failing to take command. Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated that the bottom line is that things got crazy very quickly and it took a good 10 minutes to get straightened out. He feels that the main cause of this was the first engine driving away.

16. Chiefs' Comments:

Asst. Chief Tomasheski stated that all winter long there were many water issues. Asked if there is any way to document preplanning for where water shut off's are located.

Asst. Chief Lombardi stated that the quote for the ladder truck is estimated at about \$5,000. He also asked about the recruitment boards not having the slots for date changes. Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated a vinyl covering will be purchased for changes.

Chief Cronin stated that Beacon Falls rescue truck is out of service and that Seymour may be called in for mutual aid. He also stated that the budget vote is April 28th.

Captain Edwards asked about department patches. Asst. Chief Lombardi stated they were on order.

17. Repairs/Maintenance:

Engine 11 is going out of service for valve leaks.

Asst. Chief Zaniewski stated that his light bar isn't working.

18. Requisitions: See Attached

Motion to approve requisition's made by Asst. Chief Tomasheski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Zaniewski.

**Motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm by Asst. Chief Tomasheski, 2nd by Asst. Chief Lombardi
Approved 4-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Pelletier
Clerk

**Seymour Fire Department
Chief's Requisitions**

By our signatures below, we approve the requisitions indicated above:

Date: _____

John Cronin, Chief

Thomas Tomasheski, Asst. Chief

Michael Lombardi, Asst. Chief

Doug Zaniewski, Asst. Chief