

City of Shelton Fire Department  
Board of Fire Commissioners  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, November 6, 2006

**Commissioners Present**

Robert J. Araujo, Chairman  
David Sekelsky  
Merle Chase  
Justin Sabatino  
Bruce Kosowsky

**Also Present**

Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich  
Captain John Sonsini  
Captain Tim Hongo  
Captain Nick Verdicchio  
Shaun Wheeler  
Marc Connolly

Chairman Araujo called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners to order at 7:30 P.M. All those present rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Participation**

Captain Tim Hongo addressed the Board. He has been hearing that at almost all the Board meetings for the last couple of years that he has been Captain, and the last meeting really angered him at the fact that the Board made claims their doing benefits of the Department by passing a job description that in his opinion, being in this department for as long as he has, and been a line officer for over 10 years is a joke. The Board didn't do anything for the Department, if anything you hurt the Department. The Board should think about what they are doing, because they are demoralizing the members and they are the guys who get up at midnight and 1:00 to go to the calls and if they feel that this Board does not support them then the question is, what is the need for the Board? Captain Hongo feels that the Board needs to think a little harder on the battles they think they can win, or battles they want to kowtow to the Mayor on, he really thinks the Board needs to be independent of the Mayor and do what is best for the Department and the City and the safety of the residents, not what the Mayor likes. Thank you for listening.

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sabatino to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2006 Regular Meeting, and the minutes of the two special meetings held on October 24, 2006 and October 26, 2006 as printed and distributed. Seconded by Commissioner Chase and approved unanimously.

**Communications**

Chairman Araujo reviewed the following communications with the Board:

- Memo from Administrative Secretary, re: Monaco Electric
- FOI Workshop on November 29, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.
- November 16, 2006 at Stony Hill Inn – Iroquois Gas Invitation for emergency responders.
- Letter from Linda Hooper, re: Time Cards  
In response to your memo dated October 26, 2006, I complied with your request of October 18, 2006 by sending you copies of all timecards that I have on file and did not leave out timecards on file “inadvertently or by accident”.

**Reports**

**Fire Chiefs Report** – None

**Fire Marshals Report** – Reports were received for July and August 2006.

**Training Coordinator** – A report was submitted by Fran Jones for October and there were a few items Commissioner Sabatino wanted to discuss from his report. Item #11 was sent to Corporation Counsel in reference to the Fairfield Fire School Agreement. Also, the Training Coordinator would like to hold a Fire I Recruit Class.

**Quartermasters Report** – A report was submitted to the Board for October 2006.

**Commissioner Sekelsky** – no report

**Commissioner Chase** – no report

**Commissioner Sabatino** – discussed the electrical contract. Monaco Electric is going around seeing in addition what is needed extra from their original bid. If there is something that the Commissioners want, they need to address it with the contractor. There has been some new equipment purchases since Monaco's original bid was awarded. Commissioner Sekelsky requested to see what the original list from Monaco Electric consisted of versus the new list. Commissioner Sabatino will get the lists.

**Commissioner Kosowsky** – is going to finalize the pager bid, he was able to get the right model number for the voice options so they are bid out properly. He has cases for the Minitor Fives if anyone needs them.

Commissioner Kosowsky would like permission from the Board to go before the Finance Board and give them the information on the radio system. It is already November, this needs to be addressed.

**Chairman Araujo** – spoke with the DEP last week, and they were supposed to get Chairman Araujo a copy of the agreement, but he has not received it as of yet.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sabatino to add to the agenda under OLD BUSINESS Item #12 – Radio System and under NEW BUSINESS Items #1 – Fairfield Fire School Agreement, #2 Recruit Class, Firefighter I. Seconded by Commissioner Sekelsky and approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### **G1 – DEP Agreement**

MOTION made by Commissioner Kosowsky to table this item. Seconded by Sekelsky and approved unanimously.

#### **G2 – Assistant Quartermasters Position**

Commissioner Sekelsky stated that a draft of this job description was handed out to each commissioner, and that both Commissioner Chase and himself had worked on it. He would like everyone to review it, so that maybe it can be voted on at the next meeting and posted.

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to table this item until the next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sabatino and approved unanimously.

**G3 – Recruitment Committee**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to table this item until the next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Kosowsky and approved unanimously.

**G4 – Requested list of inventory**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to table this item until Decembers Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Chase and approved unanimously.

**G5 – Report on Antenna**

Commissioner Kosowsky reported that he has received one quote on the antenna and that the quote does not include electrical or phone. He asked the Board if they would like him to research prices with other companies.

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to have Commissioner Kosowsky go out to get two more quotes for the antenna. Seconded by Commissioner Sabatino and approved unanimously.

**G6 – Fire Marshal/Inspector Pre-Certification Course Applicants**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to accept all applications. Seconded by Commissioner Chase and approved unanimously.

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky that tomorrow the Chairman calls the State and finds out how many seats are available for the City of Shelton, and at that point in time if there is only one, the Board do an interview before the next meeting with the Fire Marshal present. Seconded by Commissioner Sabatino.

The motion was amended to say, that the Board do an interview whether the Fire Marshal is present or not. Commissioner Sabatino amended his second after clarifying that Commissioner Sekelsky is giving the Fire Marshal the opportunity to be present for an interview. The motion was approved unanimously.

**G7 – Fire Marshal's Office**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to table this item until next months meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sabatino and approved unanimously.

**G8 – Fire School Insurance**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sabatino to send a letter to Corporation Counsel asking him what the status is with the Fairfield Fire School agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Sekelsky and approved unanimously.

**G9 – Job Descriptions**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to rescind the (new) Fire Chiefs Job Description until the Board can work on it. Seconded by Commissioner Kosowsky for discussion.

There was a lengthy discussion on the job description including the day to day operations not being present in the job description, to education - making it fair to apply.

Those in favor of the motion – Commissioners Sekelsky, Chase and Kosowsky  
Opposed – Commissioners Araujo and Sabatino

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to have a special meeting to work on the Fire Chiefs and Deputy Fire Chiefs job descriptions prior to the Boards next regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Chase and approved unanimously.

**G10 – Chief Selection**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to remove this item from the agenda until such time it needs to be put back on. Seconded by Commissioner Chase and approved unanimously.

**G11 – Administrative Secretary (Executive Session)**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to discuss this item after New Business. Seconded by Commissioner Kosowsky and approved unanimously.

**G12 – Radio System**

MOTION made by Commissioner Kosowsky to attend the Finance Committee, Board of Aldermen Meeting and to the full Board if necessary to explain the final study of the radio system for the Fire Department. Seconded by Commissioner Sekelsky and approved unanimously.

**New Business**

**H1 – Fairfield Fire School** – this was already discussed under Old Business Item #8.

**H2 – Recruit Class – Firefighter I**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to allow Fran Jones to get a recruitment class done for January for Firefighter I. Seconded by Commissioner Sabatino and approved unanimously.

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to go into executive session at 8:34 P.M. to discuss Old Business Item #11 – Administrative Secretary. Seconded by Commissioner Chase and approved unanimously.

MOTION made by Commissioner Kosowsky to return to regular session at 8:53 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner Sekelsky and approved unanimously.

**Executive Session – Homeland Security**

MOTION made by Commissioner Kosowsky to table Executive Session – Homeland Security. Seconded by Commissioner Sekelsky and approved unanimously.

**Remarks/Comments for the Good of the Commission**

Chairman Araujo wanted to bring up a communications on voting procedures on whether the Chairman can vote twice, it quotes the City Charter and other information that the Chairman can.

Commissioner Chase just wanted to bring up a typo from the minutes of October 26, 2006 Special Meeting, his name was listed under attendance of the meeting, but he was not present.

**Adjournment**

MOTION made by Commissioner Sekelsky to adjourn at 9:05 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner Kosowsky and approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Michele Lewis