



*SHELTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
OFFICERS' COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 18, 2008
7:00 P.M., Echo Hose Fire Company #1*

CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich, Chairman arrived at 8:00pm
Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio, Vice Chairman
Assistant Chief Ed Tevolitz
Assistant Chief Tim Hongo arrived at 7:26pm
Assistant Chief Ted Pisciotta
Capt. Genard Danso left at 7:44pm
Lt. Steve Hoffman
Lt. Dave VanWart
Lt. Joe Constantino
Lt. Matt Lawrence
Capt. Justin Sabatino
Lt. Joe Martus
Lt. Dave Catlin
Capt. Shaun Wheeler
Lt. Francis Wheeler
Training Coordinator Francis Jones
Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Rockwell
Commissioner John Sonsini
Paul Hays, Guest Speaker
Melissa Anglace, Clerk

Vice Chairman, Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio called the regular meeting of the Officers' Council to order at 7:10pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. PUBLIC PORTION

None.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chairman, Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio questioned the Council in regards to the October 21, 2008 special minutes. Lt. Joe Martus made a motion to accept the

minutes of the Officers' Council Special Meeting held on October 21, 2008. 2nd Lt. Dave VanWart seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

E. REPORTS

1. *Fire Chief John V. Millo*- None.
2. *Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich*- None.
3. *Assistant Chief Daryl Osiecki*- None.
4. *Assistant Fire Chief Nick Verdicchio*- Welcome to new Fire Chief Francis Jones.
5. *Assistant Chief Ed Tevolitz*- None.
6. *Assistant Chief Paul Wilson*- None.
7. *Assistant Chief Tim Hongo*- None.
8. *Fire Marshal James Tortora*- None.
9. *Assistant Chief Ted Pisciotta*- None.
10. *Superintendent of Apparatus James Brown*- None.

11. *Training Coordinator Fran Jones*- Firefighter 1 is just about complete and will graduate three students. The requirements for the program have changed and now a lot more difficult. The remaining eight will need to retake the HazMat Ops section of the class. Fairfield Fire School the burn building is closed for modifications. After January the building will be able to burn on both levels. After Thursday the position of Training Coordinator will be open. Everyone did a great job going to training and Thank you for the support over the years. The Accountability System Assistant Chief Tim Hongo and IT Dan are working on the Accountability System a credit card type passport system that a lot of people in Hospitals wear. All HazMat and Fire Departments will eventually have this system and the same format. The training will start at the Chief's level and will trickle down to the Officer level. After the first of the New Year everyone will receive new Accountability Cards. The Health and Fitness class is a third of the way done and some members have lost up to 60 pounds. It's a great work out and nutritional program. Further discussion available on tape.

Vice Chairman, Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio questioned the Council if anyone wanted any additions to the agenda. Under New Business the Council wanted to add the following items:

New Buisness

2. Dispatch

3. Recruitment and Training

4. High School

Lt. Joe Martus made a motion to accept the additions to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Lt. Joe Constantino.

A voice vote was taken; all were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Station Wear

Vice Chairman, Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio discussion on Station Wear explaining that it has been tabled for a few months and Assistant Chief Paul Wilson is currently working on this item and didn't forward anything for tonight's meeting.

Capt. Justin Sabatino explained to the Council that his company is not in favor of buying Station Wear when Turnout Gear and Pagers should be the first priority.

Capt. Genard Danso made a motion to not wear Company Class A Uniforms to side jobs. The motion was seconded by Lt. Steve Hoffman.

Discussion:

Capt. Shaun Wheeler the whole idea of Station Wear was to make the department uniform for outside activities. This will make us look professional for side jobs. Capt. Shaun Wheeler agrees seeing that the Class A Uniforms are very expensive and will get ruined, he doesn't want to wear the Class A Uniforms to side jobs.

Lt. Francis Wheeler is dead set against Station Wear at this point. The money should be used for Turnout gear.

Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Rockwell commented the list of members from all four companies that actually do side jobs is not that huge of a list. Therefore, whoever signed up for side jobs should get Station Uniform.

Lt. Joe Martus believes that this should be left up to the Company Officers when assigned.

Capt. Justin Sabatino the motion is irrelevant.

A voice vote was taken; motion failed 2 to 6. Motion failed therefore, motion did not pass.

Lt. Joe Constantino made a motion to leave it up to the Company Officers as to what to wear to side jobs. The motion was seconded by Lt. Joe Martus.

Discussion:

Capt. Justin Sabatino we can make any motion we want but ultimately this Council can only make recommendations to the Board of Fire Commissioners who decide. Anything decided here can be changed by the Chief and the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Lt. Joe Constantino rescinded his motion.

Capt. Justin Sabatino made a motion to table the item indefinitely.

Capt. Justin Sabatino rescinded his motion.

Capt. Justin Sabatino made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Fire Commissioners to purchase for the next awards dinner a Shirt or Polo shirt and a pair of pants for each member as a Thank you for their service. The motion was seconded by Lt. Dave Catlin.

Discussion:

Commissioner John Sonsini discussion about the key element here is money. It would cost \$16-\$17,000 for all the Shirts and Pants. Then the downside would be that only six pairs of Turnout Gear could be afforded. What is more important? It's not an unlimited fund. So you applied for Pagers and Turnout gear. The Pagers will go out to bid and 31 sets of Turnout gear. The Board of Fire Commissioners are all for it. Just decided what you want.

Vice-Chairman, Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio commented that all the Board of Fire Commissioners are looking for is a recommendation and it doesn't mean that they will purchase what we recommend but, they will put it on a priority list.

Assistant Chief Tim Hongo discussion on how the Board was supposed to budget for Class B Uniforms outside Turnout gear. We are looking for a recommendation from this Council on what type we would like. Even when we decide this doesn't mean that we are going to get it. We are not going out to buy them tomorrow.

A voice vote was taken; motion failed 3 to 7. Motion failed therefore, the motion did not pass.

Vice-Chairman, Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio entertained a motion to table this item.

Lt. Joe Martus motion to table Station Wear. The motion was seconded by Lt. Matt Lawrence.

A voice vote was taken; 9 to 3 motion carried.

2. Safety Program

Capt. Justin Sabatino discussed on the need for safety traffic vests.

Capt. Justin Sabatino made a motion to the Board of Fire Commissioners to buy safety traffic vests that meet the ANSI standard for every member of the Shelton Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Assistant Chief Tim Hongo.

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

Capt. Justin Sabatino made a motion to ask the Training Division to come up with training standards for the use of the vests and scene safety. The motion was seconded by Lt. Dave Catlin.

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

Capt. Justin Sabatino discussion on what happened to the guys at Echo Hose and the Police Officer. More discussion is available on tape.

Vice Chairman, Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio commented that the safety vests may or may not help us but, certainly will not hurt the Fire Department. Any type of Safety program will only be a benefit shame on us not to look into it.

3. Homeland Security- Executive Session- None.

4. LOSAP

Paul Hays came and gave a presentation on the LOSAP program. He spoke to the Council answering questions about the point's system, policy and procedure changes. Currently there are 35% participants in the program and has been growing steadily.

Paul Hays then went into detail using a Minimum Alarms Scale chart (attached) to explain the Alarm points. The chart shows the minimum number of company alarm responses needed to earn points. For example if the company receives 350 calls and if the participant 70 calls they are then awarded 25 points (more breakdowns attached). This program allows seeing the average guy who puts in a decent amount of effort and then will be recognized for it.

Paul Hays discussed the history on the LOSAP program how it began over two years ago on writing the Summary Plan. Now this is the third or fourth attempt over the years to update the 1991 original version. The LOSAP committee has presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners in December, March, June, July, August, and September. So far it's been put off and postponed. More LOSAP discussion is available on tape.

Capt. Justin Sabatino made a motion to send to the Board of Fire Commissioners the Officers' Council full support on what the LOSAP committee has worked on and to move it through. The motion was seconded by Lt. Steve Hoffman.

Discussion:

Council discussion on how this needs to be pushed through.

Capt. Shaun Wheeler questioned Paul Hays about the pension program. Paul Hays explained that there have been many attempts to extend the years of service from 25 to 30. Chairman, Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich explain that a lot of members today are most likely not going to make 20-25years of service for various reasons. More discussion can be found on tape.

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Response to incident

Chairman, Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich discussed about some concerns about the Hotel response. A response to a fire alarm on 780 Bridgeport Avenue when the apparatus arrived the building was not evacuated and the alarm was reset. They were told by the Fire Marshal that they could reset the alarm. This is a concern for the new Fire Chief Fran Jones to determine who, how and when it's safe to reoccupy a building when not on scene. When problems occur proper documentation must be done.

Training Coordinator Fran Jones said that it will be dealt with and we will come up with a solution.

2. Dispatch

Discussion about how there have been problems with dispatching meaning that wrong companies, and ways of dispatching. This has been a constant issue for almost 25 years possible lack of training or supervision.

Chairman, Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich when contract negotiations come up the Officers Council will have to be involved. As a result next month Fire Chief Fran Jones, Chief of Police Joel Hurliman, Union President from the dispatching and Chairman Michael Ullrich will sit down and develop a plan for next month on where this needs to go and why.

3. Recruitment and Training

The Council discussed about how the City pays a lot of money for the members of the fire department for training and the people drop the classes wasting the money. People should be held liable for the dropped class.

Chairman, Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich discussion on creating a policy stating; everyone gets one chance to take the course and the City will pay for the costs. However, if you fail and decide to retake the class it's at your expense until the class is passed then the City will reimburse the cost.

Capt. Justin Sabatino made a motion to table recruitment and training until the Chief and Training Coordinator come back with a decision. The motion was seconded by Lt. Joe Martus.

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

4. High School

Chairman, Assistant Chief Michael Ullrich talked about the hose cabinets is not functional at Shelton High School. Stairwell "A" hose cabinet is not only out of service but the whole system is as well. There currently are two that are still functional one is at the Auditorium and the other is at rear side driveway Stairwell "H". More discussion is available on tape.

H. REMARKS/COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNCIL-

Lt. Francis Wheeler discussion about the new Fire Chief Fran Jones and how a lot of things need to be addressed in the Fire Department to straighten things up.

Lt. Joe Martus Thank you to Training Coordinator Fran Jones did a great job.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Lt. Joe Martus motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Assistant Chief Nick Verdicchio.

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A. Anglace

Melissa A. Anglace
Clerk

ALL TAPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE.