Commissioners Present:
  Gary Field, Commissioner
  Marc Connolly, Commissioner
  John Sonsini, Commissioner
  Bruce Kosowsky, Commissioner

Also Present:
  Francis Jones, Fire Chief
  Nick Verdicchio, Assistant Fire Chief
  Jolynn VaWart, Training Coordinator

A. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Commissioner Kosowsky.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  1. Minutes of Regular Meeting November 2nd, 2009

*Commissioner Field motioned to approve the minutes of the November 2nd, 2009 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion.*

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kosowsky made a note that the agenda missed the public participation section.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
John St. Lewis from New England Fire Equipment Apparatus stated that his purpose here tonight was to show gloves and talk about thermal imager.

Commissioner Kosowsky stated that under public portion we don’t get into discussion back and forth.

Commissioner Connolly stated that he thought it would be a good idea to have John St. Lewis come to the following Tuesday’s Officer’s Council meeting to show his thermal imager.
E. COMMUNICATIONS
Commissioner Kosowsky stated that there was a memo from Corporation Council that needed to be copied and passed out to the Commissioners. He read it out loud. It was about mutual agreements with other cities. Fire Chief's report should have been in your mailbox and training coordinator’s report was just handed out. Also in mailbox is letter from Captain Sabatino stating that Company #4’s Assistant Chief’s position has been selected. Another communication is from Huntington Fire Company about a fire police appointment. Also, a letter from Merle Chase about his new email and a letter from Asst. Chief Verdicchio about tabling item on truck replacement. Fire Chief Jones handed in application that needs to be filled out by December 18th, 2009 for the spring 2010 Fire Marshal Inspector Pre-Certification course.

Additions to agenda:
**Commissioner Field motioned to add Items 3 – 9 under New Business (Item #3 Pine Rock Park/Asst. Chief, Item #4 Company 3 Fire Police appointment, Item #5 Letter from Corporation Council, Item #6 Request for Fire Marshal School, Item #7 Budget 2010-2011, Item #8 Reimbursement for Past Commissioner Badges, and Item #9 Reimbursement for bunk beds. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion.**
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

F. REPORTS:
Commissioner Kosowsky stated that they just received Fire Chief’s report and they have Fire Marshal’s report. Has everyone had time to look through those? Response was ‘no’ by commissioners. Commissioner Kosowsky stated that we also just received training coordinator’s report. Commissioner Kosowsky asked if anyone had time to look over Quartermaster Report. Some board member’s stated ‘no’.

1. Fire Chiefs Report Francis Jones
2. Fire Marshal James Tortora
3. Training Coordinator Jolynn VaWart
4. Quartermaster Report – Marc Connolly

Commissioner Connolly stated, in regards to the Superintendent of Apparatus Report, there is an ongoing issue with windshield wipers on ladder 33. I would like to have Superintendent Brown look at options for retrofitting windshield wipers on that truck to make it safe.

Fire Chief Jones stated, if I could speak. The Superintendent of Apparatus has tried different fixes without any good results. So after speaking with Superintendent it could become a pricey repair. The Superintendent can have Gowan-Knights have options to go to the other dealer. I think it’s a start. It’s going to be a pricey repair. I do believe it’s a safety item that it needs to be addressed.
Quartermaster stated he would like to see a battery replacement system/program for all our power tools.

Commissioner Kosowsky stated that the only question he has is ‘what is the status of the flashlights’? This has been going on now for six months.

Quartermaster Connolly stated that there are approximately 87 battery requests right now. And that takes us over the $1,000 mark.

Commissioner Kosowsky also stated that we needed to get going on a bid for clothing. A coat and pants; you need to get that going.

5. Commissioner Sonsini
6. Commissioner Connolly
7. Commissioner Field
8. Commissioner Kosowsky

Commissioner Kosowsky asked Training Coordinator, it seems there was an issue down at fire school. There were not enough instructors. Two attendees were instructors and stepped in to help out. The question is whether they will get paid or not. Jolynn VaWart, Training Coordinator stated, it is all set, they are getting paid.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Bids for Hose, Ladder and SCBA testing

Commissioner Connolly stated that at this time he would like to note that he will be acting/talking as Quartermaster.

**Commissioner Sonsini motioned to award the hose test fire department bid #30-31 to Waterway in Hyde Park, NY at .21 per ft.** Commissioner Field seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously 3-0, with Commissioner Connolly abstaining.

**Commissioner Field motioned to award the ladder testing fire department bid #30-32 to Fire One at $31.00 per ladder.** Commissioner Sonsini seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously 3-0, with Commissioner Connolly abstaining.

**Commissioner Field motioned to award self contained breathing apparatus testing fire department bid #30-33 to Shipmans Fire Equipment at $30 per bottle for hydrotesting and to Survival Group at $65 for the checks.** Commissioner Sonsini seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously 3-0, with Commissioner Connolly abstaining.

Commissioner Field motioned to go from Old Business Item number 2 to Old Business number 3 (bids thermal imager) first. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

3. Bids Thermal Imager

Commissioner Field motioned to table Item number 3/Bid Thermal Imager to next month’s agenda and request the vendors come in and show their cameras at next meeting. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously 3-0, with Commissioner Connolly abstaining.

2. Bids for Command Vehicle Trucks

Commissioner Field asked if there was a reason they only went to bid on Connecticut cars instead of taking the state bids? Commissioner Kosowsky stated, that is between the purchasing agent, that is his job. The reasoning behind it, I’d have to talk to him.

Chief Jones stated that he’d like to shed some light on this; Fire Chief Jones worked with Alderman and Purchasing Agent putting together the specifications and the first package. There are two vendors that use the state bid package. One is a vendor out of New Jersey and the other is probably Ford. Both have come back with 2010’s for an Expedition and an Explorer, as requested through the Chief's office under our plan to replace the Command Vehicles, every year get two new vehicles. So we would have four Expeditions, one for each Asst. Fire Chief, and two Ford Explorer’s (one for Fire Chief and second for presumably the Deputy Chief). We secured $50,000 dollars through the Board of Alderman to purchase up to two vehicles, with the understanding that we would outfit the vehicles with our operational budget. We have a $750,000 budget, which we could move items around to outfit them. We don’t have to outfit immediately. Fire Chief Jones feels the bids are too high and wants to bring back to Purchasing Agent and show them his finding. We went out to bid, went to local vendors, but the state contract or state vendor is the cheapest. That would be my recommendation as the Chief, but it’s ultimately up to the Board.

Commissioner Kosowsky stated, not to show any disrespect to anything or anybody, but that is our decision to make. That should not be anybody else’s decision to go to another Board and say what our budget’s going to be used for. We only have right now in our balance $491,000. First of all, I don’t want to offend anyone, but this was done wrong. It’s up to the Board of Fire Commissioner’s to go to the Board of Alderman, period, as far as on concerned on buying vehicles. That is the way the ordinance was written and I believe the ordinance is still on the book. That’s what it says. It is our decisions to buy vehicles or not buying vehicles. I have no problem buying vehicles, we are long over due.

Further discussion between Chief Jones and Commissioner Kosowsky went on.
Commissioner Connolly motioned to purchase one Ford Explorer and outfit it with full command package and lighting. Commissioner Sonsini seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion failed to pass with a vote of 0-4.

Commissioner Connolly Amended the Motion:
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

Commissioner Field motioned to award Adamson Industries of Haver Hill, MA the bid #30-34 to purchase one lighting, striping and command module for a Ford Expedition at $12,820. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

4. Assistant Chiefs job description

Commissioner Sonsini motioned to table Item 4/Assistant Chief's job description. Commissioner Field seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Dates For 2010

Commissioner Field motioned to accept the 2010 Board of Fire Commissioner’s meeting dates to be turned into the Town Clerk. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

2. Truck Replacement Bid - Tabled

3. Pine Rock Park/ Asst. Chief

Commissioner Field motioned that we accept the nomination of Asst. Chief Verdicchio. Commissioner Sonsini seconded the motion.
Commissioner Connolly stated, if you vote this in, you are appointing him tonight without any extensions or anything else. And you don’t have your policy in place. He’s still a Chief through March. Commissioner Field rescinded his motion.

Commissioner Connolly motioned to table the acceptance letter of Asst. Chief Verdicchio until the January meeting at which time we ask each Company to submit their selection for Asst. Chief. Commissioner Sonsini seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.
4. Company 3 Fire Police appointment

**Commissioner Sonsini motioned that we add Thomas McNeil to the Huntington Fire Co. #3 fire police roster. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion.**

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

5. Letter from Corporation Council on Mutual Aid Agreement

Commissioner Kosowsky will make copies for everyone so they can see the Mutual Agreement.

6. Fire Marshal School request

Commissioner Kosowsky stated that this is the same request that the Board went through before that he believes the Board did not vote on. Are you trying to take the whole total course? Is that what you are trying to do?

Fire Chief Jones stated, I’d like to complete the course. I had applied through the offices of the State Fire Marshal’s application and was accepted into a class that cost $0 dollars to the City of Shelton. I came forward to the BOFC for their blessings to go to the investigation module. No decision was made, so I ended up getting signed-off from the mayor’s office. I am currently signed up for the investigation module and I am asking the BOFC to allow me to go to that class. I am not looking to be signed-off or appointed as a Fire Marshal; I am looking for the educational benefit and better do my job as Fire Chief. This does not cost the City a dime. I just want to do a better job as Fire Chief.

Commissioner Sonsini stated he feels it was respectful for the Chief to come back and ask for the Board’s approval, being he could get it through the mayor.

Commissioner Kosowsky stated they still did not have time to talk to Corporation Council about situation.

**Commissioner Sonsini motioned to sign-off request and let Fire Chief Jones attend course with the exception that he will not be appointed to any positions at this time. Commissioner Field seconded the motion.**

A voice vote was taken; motion passed 2-1 (with Commissioner Kosowsky opposed and Commissioner Connolly abstained).

7. Budget 2010-2011

Set up a special meeting in January for new budget.

8. Reimbursement for Past Commissioner Badges

**Commissioner Field motioned to pay Company #3 for past Commissioner badges. Commissioner Sonsini seconded the motion.**

A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.
9. Reimbursement for bunk beds

Commissioner Field motioned to pay bunk bed bill of $640.76. Commissioner Sonsini seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Field motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sonsini seconded the motion.
A voice vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Wells

Kimberly Wells / Clerk

2 TAPES ON FILE IN TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE