

REGULAR MEETING

SOUTHAMPTON FIRE DISTRICT

MARCH 12, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Southampton Fire District was called to order by Chairman Grisnik in the Library of the Tuckahoe School, 468 Magee Street, Southampton, New York, in accordance with the notice provided to the news media. The meeting opened at 7:30 PM with the salute to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Commissioners Fred Andrews, Robert Grisnik, David Price, Harald Steudte, Tom White Treasurer Mike Hadix and Secretary Kristin White

ABSENT: N/A

GUESTS: Southampton Village Fire Department Chief Roy Wines, Joe Corr.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Price to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2009 with corrections. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	Aye
Mr. Steudte	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW6-32</u>

Chief's Report: Chief's report was submitted by Chief Wines. Current calls to date were submitted, 86 calls so far for the year; 6 structure fires, 5 heavy rescue, 3 hazardous, 17 service calls and 43 false alarms. The breakdown by area is 50 calls in the Village, 31 in the District, 3 mutual aid and 12 on the Reservation. This is one of the lowest amount of calls we have had in a long time. When asking why among the department and council some thoughts were, false alarms rates have been raised, people may be shutting down systems because of economy. It was found that many members who are plumbers have said many more houses have been shut down for the winter. Last year the department was running these numbers monthly. Mr. Steudte asked for the house number of the Meadow Lane call. 413 Meadow Lane, a faucet was left on. A smoke detector went off when water entered the basement.

Chief Wines thanked the Board for attending the meeting with the Village. On a update on the status of new packs Chief Wines reported that the new packs went out to permissive referendum. They have been ordered and are expected to arrive in the next two weeks. The old packs will be traded into the supplier. There will be a one day switch when the men will be trained, the old packs will come off the trucks and after training session the new packs will go on.

Mr. Andrews thanked Chief Wines and all Chiefs for putting the meeting together and seeing that there are similar/mutual interests.

It was asked of Chief Wines “what was the feedback from Council”, Chief Wines said council has been receptive, and are looking towards a positive future.

The Board reviewed the 13 plus 5 vouchers presented by the Treasurer.

A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. Andrews to approve the vouchers as presented. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	Aye
Mr. Steudte	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW6-33</u>

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. Price to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	Aye
Mr. Steudte	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW6-34</u>

The Secretary reviewed the correspondence sent and received over the last month. A list is attached herein.

Committee Reports-

Fire District Budget –

Fire Protection Contract – February made our first installment planning second due in May.

Long Range Planning – The Board met with the Village Board and The Chiefs at the St. Andrews fire house on March 10, 2009. All commissioners were present with the exception of Mr. Grisnik. Mr. Andrews was asked to give a brief report of the meeting. A very good meeting started off a little slow, discussion of an equitable division of costs ensued. The District Board made the request of a 60/40 split of the expenses (60% Village, 40% District), pointing out that there are many ways to cut the pie but a 60/40 split would be the best due to property values. The District made it clear that they felt if arguing and debating of the 60/40 split was to continue then there is no more to talk about. At that time the Village board members went into caucus and came back with an agreement to a 60/40 split. This is a preliminary agreement and subject to further discussion and agreement. The meeting went forward dealing with the contract; the two Boards will proceed on two tracts, operational and a separate notion of the construction of two fire houses. General concession was this was a good way to proceed. As soon as Village gets numbers there will be further discussion on this matter. The village allocates funds to many services the Mayor said they have a new system to track funds. The District was not clear on when these numbers would be available. There was indication that an audit would be done in July, but that seems too long to wait especially with

current discussions. Mayor Epley said it could come sooner if we could rely on Village internal numbers. Long Range planning would be for two stations but not exclusive. It was indicated that it would be most ideal to create a subcommittee of Village Board members, District Board members, the Chiefs and possible others, this job was delegated to Chief Wines to make a proposal in this regards. The two boards plan to meet again in two weeks, March 24th.

Wells, Hydrants & Water Mains –

Old Business – Mr. Stuedte brought up that we have spoken in the past of hiring a PR person. He feels that the time has come. This continues to fall by the wayside. People do not know what the Board is for and it is time to give out some information. Mr. White and Mr. Steudte had met with someone over two years ago. Mr. Steudte has volunteered to take the lead. Mr. Andrews asked what exactly we would be saying. He is not sure if hiring a PR person is necessary, do we have enough activity. He feels that locally we have been getting positive, honest coverage in the Press. All in all a newsletter would be good. Mr. Steudte says we have to make our own Press. He suggested we compile a list of individuals who do vote and get information out to them. Mr. Andrews agrees, he doesn't feel we need a liaison between us and the local newspaper. MR. Price said we are going to need help even with packaging of the upcoming hurdles, i.e. building a fire house.

We unanimously passed to put out an RFP last month, Mr. Andrews worked on and nothing else has happened. Mr. Glass had been contact and not getting back. Mr. Andrews feels this should be put on ice in the wake of the positive meeting with the Village Board. In some respects going ahead with the RFP at this point could be misconstrued by other parties and damage the progress made. Being that we haven't gone forward or heard from our attorney we should put on hold until we see where our discussions go. The question was brought up of how long this should be tabled. Mr. Andrews said it could be brought up at any time, but we should wait at this point and see how our discussions go. A date could be added, Mr. White adds that we table it for 60 days, there are elections coming up and we can see how fruitful the next few weeks will be.

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews and seconded by Mr. White to put on hold the submission of the RFP until 60 days from tonight

Discussion ensued Mr. Price said we should wait no longer than 60 days, we need to know what this study is going to cost. We do not have to go ahead with the study but we need to know what it will cost so we can plan for the future.

Mr. Steudte said yes we had a productive meeting but we need more to go on. This Board need to stay ahead, hopefully things will proceed with the Village but we need to be prepared to go ahead on our own.

Mr. Andrews sees that the Village views the RFP study as an affront to them, he is not clear why but they do. To proceed with the study would damage the relationship established with the Village Board.

Mr. White asked Mr. Andrews to view this issue as two parts. Let us not proceed tonight with the RFP but at least find out how much it costs. It is another unknown, and knowing the costs can only help.

Mr. Grisnik also feels that we need to go ahead with the aspect of discovering the cost of a study. The last time a study was done on the District was 1992, we are looking for fire protection for the Village and District, not consolidation. We need to know what the fire protection needs are. We should advertise that we need a study done and collect proposals, this is what we should do now, not wait 60 days. We need to know what we need to proceed with the big picture.

Mr. Andrews agree it is essential to do a long range study, but it is just as important to do it together with the Village. We have opened a new page with the Village, we do not know how this will go, but we need to work with them if possible. To go on our own now would be premature, we do not know what the nature of our future relationship with the Village. If there is a way to informally show the proposal around to get an idea of pricing would be good, but to submit a formal invitation would not be good.

Mr. Grisnik feels if we are clear that we are looking for numbers at this time, whether we take the next step is on hold. Waiting another 2 months to find the price would be to long.

Mr. White will withdraw his second if the wording is not clear. He desires to go ahead with the RFP but not the study.

Mr. Andrews says there is no distinction in the minds of the Village between the RFP and the Study.

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews to postpone the issuance of the RFP for 60 without prejudice to review at any time.

Mr. Price addressed Chief Wines as to the Villages issue with the RFP. Chief Wines said his feeling was the word consolidation that was undesirable to the Village and Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews and seconded by Mr. Price to postpone the issuance of the RFP for 30 days; the motion was passed by the following vote:

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	nay
Mr. Steudte	Nay	Mr. White	Aye		

VW6-35

New Business –Hawke, Mr. Price will look over, Chinarani information to be filed, Sandy Hollow the majority of the Town Board members agreed with the applicant to bring water from North Sea Rd.

As required by law an RFP was put out for accounting services. Three proposals came back, Hulse and Co was the only bid that came back with our stipulations. They are our Current Auditors and we have been happy with them.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Steudte to employ Hulse & Company CPA's as our proceed with the RFP. The motion was passed by the following vote.

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	Aye	
Mr. Steudte	Aye	Mr. White	Aye			<u>VW6-35</u>

The section 9 election is due, Kristin will call the County Board and get information to Mr. Price.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Andrews to designate Mr. Price to vote on behalf of the Board. The motion was passed by the following vote.

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	Aye	
Mr. Steudte	Aye	Mr. White	Aye			<u>VW6-36</u>

Public Participation- N/A

A bid was received by Dunn Engineering, briefly outlined by Mr. White, there are two parts to the bid, part one being the development of the power plant, part two attendance of meeting with the project team, planning boards etc.

Mike brought up that Mr. Yastremski be paid \$62.50

A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. Price to pay Mr. Yastremsky \$62.50 for his services during election. The motion was passed by the following vote.

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	Aye	
Mr. Steudte	Aye	Mr. White	Aye			<u>VW6-37</u>

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews and seconded by Mr. Price to adjourn to executive session at 8:40 P.M. to discuss contractual matters. The motion was passed by the following vote.

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	Aye	
Mr. Steudte	Aye	Mr. White	Aye			<u>VW6-38</u>

A motion was made by Mr. Grisnik and seconded by Mr. Steudte at 9:20 PM to recess to Executive Session to discuss legal matters. The motion was passed by the following vote.

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. Grisnik	Aye	
Mr. Steudte	Aye	Mr. White	Aye			<u>VW6-39</u>

The executive session was adjourned at 10:00 PM and the Board of Fire Commissioners returned to their regular meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Price to appoint William F. Glass, Jr. as General Counsel for the Southampton Fire District for the year 2009 pursuant to the terms of a separate retainer agreement, annexed hereto; seconded by Commissioner Steudte and approved on the following vote:

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. White	Aye
Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye		<u>VW6-31</u>

Chairman Grisnik declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin White, Secretary