

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

SOUTHAMPTON FIRE DISTRICT

MARCH 13, 2008

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 7:32 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 Nicole Hadix

GUESTS: Southampton Fire Department 1st Assistant Chief Roy L. Wines

Chiefs Report: Chief Wines handed the Board an “incident type report by district” for a period dated 1/1/08 to 3/12/08. The reports have been altered so they now reflect activity up to the day. Total of 136 calls, 81 false alarms. The Chief told the Board of a fire at 75 Main, the fire department was able to keep the damage to a minimum.

Commissioner Andrews asked about false alarms outside the Village. He stated the Fire District should share in the payments. Chief Wines agreed the money collected from homeowners for false alarms should come back to the Fire District. Commissioner White said he spoke to the Fire Marshal and they don’t know who if anyone is getting paid for these false alarms. The Board will look into this issue.

Chief Wines spoke of the Village Board meeting he attended last month. He stated that was the reason why he could not attend the Fire District meeting last month. The Fire Department’s new firehouse committee met and picked a fire house plan and architect they liked. He stated they had no location and the plan could be built at any site. The committee has requested the Village supply funds to make a model of the fire house. The Chief said he explained to the Village Board that no site had been picked at this time. He also told the Village Board that the District Board liked the proposed design but was not in favor of going forward with a new firehouse until unification issues were resolved. Commissioner Grisnik asked Chief Wines if he had a personal opinion where the firehouse should be built. The Chief stated the North Sea Road location was good, but he is also looking at a County Road 39 location next to Buzz Chew and a location on Willow Street. Both Willow and County Road 39 properties are located within the Village. The Chief said they have to plan with the Village locations since the future of the fire department is unknown at this time but the building can also be slightly modified to fit on the North Sea Road site which the District will own. They have to consider long term planning for a paid or volunteer department. The new structure would have to house

bedrooms and offices, everything you could need for a paid department. Chief Wines stated they cannot wait any longer to start this process for a new fire house.

Commissioner White stated he agreed with the Chief completely regarding the need for the new firehouse but he stated the Chiefs need to keep this Board updated and informed. Chief Wines said there is a member of the District Board who is also on the fire house committee. Chief Wines agrees and wants to see this plan move forward smoothly. Chief Wines stated he is working hard to create this plan for the new firehouse but also aware that the unification issues must be resolved.

Commissioner Steudte asked about the cost of the new firehouse. Chief Wines stated 7 to 10 million dollars, depending on a number of factors like location. Commissioner Steudte asked if the Chief felt the Village voters would pass this plan for a new firehouse not knowing whether or not the Fire Department and the Fire District will unify. Chief Wines stated if the District splits, the Village will have to go to paid firemen and the new firehouse would be shared by the fire department and ambulance services. Commissioner Steudte asked what the cost would be to the District if the fire house is built and we still contract for services. Chief Wines said that would be for the Village Board and District Board to decide. Commissioner Steudte stated a portion of the cost would then be passed on to the District through the contract. Commissioner White said we have to unify. Commissioner Price said he has some questions regarding the fire house model. Chief Wines said he is not at that stage yet. Commissioner Price said regarding long term plans the Chief should also look at the current fire houses and see how they can be updated.

Commissioner Price said Chief Corr should bring this Board and the Village Board together. Commissioner Price and Chief Wines agree the Fire District Board and the Village Board need to meet and make some decisions. The Chief said he needs answers in order to prepare for the long term. Commissioner White said he feels this Board has been making an effort to meet. He said it is up to the Village Board and the Chiefs. Commissioner White said the Village Board has told the District Board to meet with the Chiefs and when the Chiefs have made a decision, then the Village Board will get involved. Chief Wines stated he is becoming more involved with the issue of unification and believes we can move forward.

Commissioner Andrews asked about a paid department. Will that be necessary in both circumstances either a unified district or separate fire departments? Chief Wines answered yes. For long term planning, a paid department will be in the future of the fire department. Right now they have enough volunteers but cannot expect that for the future due to the cost of living in this area. The Commissioners and Chief discussed the issues of a paid department: what would the cost difference be for money paid to volunteer firemen and paid firemen, cost to taxpayers. They also discussed that current firemen would not automatically be paid firemen, that would have to be a civil service issue and the fire fighters union would be involved. Chief Wines pointed out the ambulance division which did not hire from within when it went to a full time staff.

Commissioner Grisnik stated the Village Fire Commissioner takes his lead from the Fire Chiefs. He follows what the Fire Chiefs tell him. Commissioner Grisnik pointed out that Chief Wines and the other Chiefs have a big role in these unification discussions. Chief Wines answered he understood and is making an effort on his part.

A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. White to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2008 as presented. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	<u>VH5-1</u>
Mr. Price	Aye			

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

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	<u>VH5-2</u>
Mr. Price	Aye			

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. White 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. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	<u>VH5-3</u>
Mr. Price	Aye			

The Treasurer noted the District has received 60 % of its tax revenue to date. Last year we had received 60 % of tax revenue by the end of January. He also stated the next contract payment is due on May 31, 2008.

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

Chairman Grisnik read a letter from the Agawam Hose Company inviting the Board to their drill on April 28, 2008. Chairman Grisnik asked the Secretary to reply to this letter and accept the invitation.

Commissioner Steudte asked about the FOIL letter. Secretary Hadix stated she received it today then Commissioner Steudte read it to the Board. Secretary Hadix said she spoke to the District's attorney and he would prepare a response.

Commissioner Andrews asked a question of the Board regarding a letter from Mr. Orzechowski. Commissioner Steudte will look into that issue. Commissioner Steudte stated he was amazed how difficult it has been to depose Mr. Braun.

Committee Reports-

Fire District Budget – No Report

Fire Protection Contract – To be discussed in executive session

Long Range Planning – No Report

Wells, Hydrants & Water Mains – Hydrant on Seven Ponds Towd Road has been repaired. Commissioner Steudte spoke about the hydrants on Cold Spring and Fordune. He said he spoke to ex-Commissioner Press and they feel the District should not be responsible for these hydrants since these are private communities. The Treasurer said the Board has already discussed this issue and decided we were responsible if the private developments wouldn't pay, the District would have to. Commissioner White said since we already decided to pay we should continue to do so.

Leland Lane - development on County Road 39. We will recommend a sprinkler system; a Knox box and all codes must be met.

Old Business – Treasurer stated membership in the Association for Fire Districts of the State of New York annual dues are \$375 per year. The Board has already approved membership but has not paid.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Price to authorize the Treasurer to send a payment of \$375 to AFDSNY to cover the yearly membership fees. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	<u>VH5-4</u>
Mr. Price	Aye			

Commissioner Andrews asked if any plans had been made for recognizing Mr. Press. Commissioner Price said he spoke to Ms. Kabot and the town is willing to be involved but the Board has to decide what they would like to do and where.

Commissioner White and Commissioner Grisnik discussed the Chiarani property and the bill that was due for fees to the town. The question arose are we responsible for these fees or is Mr. Chiarani. Commissioner Grisnik spoke to the District's attorney who said Mr. Chiarani should be paying fees for items regarding section 1 and section 3 of the total property. The Board made a decision to send the payment and get a refund from Mr. Chiarani.

New Business – Commissioner Steudte mentioned after reviewing the District’s finances, the amount of money now available to the District due to its large tax base and fiscal responsibility. He questions if the Village has the same amount of money in their account set aside for the fire department. He hopes the Chiefs will see the benefits of joining together with this large assessed value. Commissioner Price said he feels the Chiefs are starting to understand the benefits. A combined District would have enough tax base to build the new firehouse. Commissioner Steudte questions if the Village will be able to afford a new fire house at this time with concerns regarding a new village hall.

Chairman Grisnik said at the last school board meeting, representatives from the new Sandy Hollow low cost housing project were in attendance. He requested they come to the Fire Districts April meeting to present their plans to this Board. The representatives from this group felt they had already corresponded with the District by sending paperwork to the Fire Department. Commissioner Grisnik explained the District and Department are two separate entities. Commissioner Steudte recommended the Board look at a website called Cottage Company which handles multi unit work force housing like the one planned.

Commissioner Price noted that earlier this evening Chief Joe Corr was honored at Village Hall for his heroism, along with Police Sergeant David Dorchak and Police Officer Kevin Dunkirk, in attempting to save the life of Brian Harrington last month. The three men received special citations from Southampton Village, the Town of Southampton, Suffolk County, New York State and the Congress.

Commissioner Price moved that we adopt a resolution commending the Chief as well. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Whereas Chief Joseph Corr courageously risked his life in an effort to save the life of another, and

Whereas such devotion to duty is entirely typical of what we have learned to expect from Chief Corr,

Be it resolved that this Board joins a grateful community in thanking Chief Corr for his selfless response and commending him for his bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. Price at 8:37 PM to recess to Executive Session to discuss contractual matters. The motion was passed by the following vote.

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	<u>VH5-5</u>
Mr. Price	Aye			

The executive session was adjourned at 9:25 PM and the Board of Fire Commissioners returned to their regular meeting. No further business was conducted.

A motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. White to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was passed by the following vote.

Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	<u>VH5-6</u>
Mr. Price	Aye			

Chairman Grisnik declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Hadix, Secretary