

REGULAR MEETING

SOUTHAMPTON FIRE DISTRICT

September 11, 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 7:30 PM with the salute to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

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

GUESTS: Southampton Fire Department, Chief Joe Corr, 2nd Assistant Chief Rodney C. Pierson.

Public Participation: N/A

Chief's Report: Chief Rodney Pierson submitted the Incident Report, also included in the Chief's report was a compiled list of multiple false alarms in the village and outlying district. The Chief asked for support with a solution to minimize the incidence of false alarms, suggesting the possibility of raising fees for false alarms hoping it would cut down on incidence. Mr. Price added that Commercial buildings, high occupancy, must contact the fire department first by law when an alarm is sounded. He made the point that one thing we don't want is have people turn there systems off. Mr. Stuedte said fees are not the answer, introduced the idea of a stop work order on private building under construction, which seem to be the #1 violators, he expressed that when a commercial building as in a restaurant has a fire problem, the kitchen is shut down until the board of health can inspect. Possibly a work site could fall into the same category and be required to be inspected before work can commence. A stop work order may be much more affective than a fee schedule. That would most definitely force homeowners and construction companies alike to take false alarms and their causes more seriously.

Mr. Andrews asked what Chief Pierson's opinion was of having the board speak to the fire department council about consolidation. Chief Pierson said he personally would like to see it, perhaps not at council but on another night. He made a point that it is his opinion and the final discussion would be up to the Chief (Chief Corr). He will address with his department.

Chief Corr spoke of signal interrupters and installing them in the response vehicles. This would be an added but necessary cost to the future department budget. Interrupters

would have two parts, one in the trucks and one on the signals. Mr. White added that Hampton Bays has begun to install these already.

Mr. Grisnik approved the minutes for motion. A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. Price to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 14, 2008. With correction of hydrants to wells. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW5-69</u>

On the voucher for LIPA Mr. Price asked about the location of a deep well on Edge of Woods, there is a strong possibility this well is located in the North Sea Fire District, it will be looked into.

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

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW5-70</u>

Revenues received to date reviewed, expenses updated with this months vouchers. Balances in accounts reviewed. Mr. Andrew asked about the values allocated to the funds, come the end of the year the board will make a decision to more funds from district general fund to pre-allocated funds, any additional funds will be available to allocated funds at the boards discretion.

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. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW5-71</u>

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

Committee Reports-

Fire District Budget – Budget was presented to the board for approval. The tax rate has been decreased as a result to an increased assessment. The treasurer reminded the board of the upcoming deadlines in reference to the budget. Mr. Grisnik stated that the budget appears to reflect the board's suggestions. Mr. Price reminded the members

that the reserve funds will be reduced drastically with the acquisition of the Chiarani property. Mr. Andrews proposed a reduction in the tax rate to equal 10% below last year's rate; he suggested some of the budgeted amounts could be closer examined. The Commissioners less Mr. Andrews felt it is important to keep the budget at the proposed numbers because of the nature of the relationship with the village and the uncertainty of a future contract amount. The balance of the reserve funds is important for the future of the District, with an unclear future maintaining reserve funds are in the best interest of the taxpayers.

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews to reduce the tax rate by 10%, Mr. Steudte 2nd the motion to reduce the tax rate. The motion was defeated by the following vote.

Mr. Grisnik	Nay	Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Nay
Mr. Price	Nay	Mr. White	Nay		<u>VW5-72</u>

Discussion was begun by Mr. Andrews as to the values assigned to particular items in the budget. His questions were addressed by members of the board and the treasurer. Mr. Steudte stated that he was interested to see reserve funds maintained for the future of the fire department. Mr. Grisnik stated that the future contract is unknown, it is important to maintain the budget to protect the interest of the district taxpayers.

A motion was made by Mr. White to accept the proposed budget, 2nd by Mr. Price. Mr. Andrew's sought to amend the morion to reduce one line item by \$10,000, but his amendment was ruled out of order by Mr. Grisnik. The motion was accepted by the following vote.

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Andrews	Nay	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW5-73</u>

The treasurer will amend and make available to necessary parties.

Fire Protection Contract – Mr. Grisnik has had discussion with the Village Mayor, it is on the Village Boards agenda for the evening. Mr. Grisnik suggested a 2 year extension to explore the RPF and consolidation. Mr. Steudte feels it would be advantageous to go public with this Board's desire to extend the fire protection contract with the village. This could be accomplished at the village board meeting which is televised.

Long Range Planning – Mr. Steudte brought to the boards attention Suffolk County's E911 emergency plan, they may have services available that could be useful to

our District. Can we look into their services and see how we fit in and what is available, Chiefs to be included in discussion.

Mr. White meet with Mr. Rogers on Monday 8, 2008, supplied him with maps of the Chiarani property, discussed topography and looked at the site. The Board of health has approved the site, Chiarani should be receiving 3rd application for redoing the septic at the Canada Dry building and the hwy house. Mr. Bruin will be made aware.

Mr. Steudte brought up discussion of using the antenna at Southampton Stonybrook campus as a repeater for the department. He will follow up with university. Chief Pierson stated there are holes, but with the current repeater communication throughout the department is good. Chief Corr addressed questions about the use of text messaging for alerting fire fighters. Only calls through the county are sent via text message. Through discussion with the Chiefs of other department their have been problems with dispatch, in many instances the police department is dispatched first, which delays the response of the fire department.

Wells, Hydrants & Water Mains – A site plan for Tuckahoe lane and County Rd 39 has been received, a commercial building is proposed with access off Tuckahoe lane. Discussion re: knox boxes, street access and possible on site water between the Board and Chief Corr. We will acknowledge receipt of environmental study for the Greek Orthodox Church.

Old Business – N/A

New Business – Elections are coming up, Secretary to contact past secretary for assistance. A letter has been drafted on behalf of the Board and the Department in reference to a proposed resolution to mandate waterfront homeowners to place house numbers on water side. Chiefs and Board approved. A draft of an RFP has been submitted and discussed by Board.

A motion to approve submitted RPF was made by Mr. Andrews and seconded by Mr. White. The motion was approved by the following vote.

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW5-74</u>

A motion was made by Mr. Andrews and seconded by Mr. Steudte at 9:20 PM to recess as Executive Session was not necessary. The motion was passed by the following vote.

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Andrews	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye	Mr. White	Aye		<u>VW5-68</u>

Chairman Grisnik declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin White, Secretary