

REGULAR MEETING

SOUTHAMPTON FIRE DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

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

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Robert Grisnik, W. Mark Press, David Price, Harald Steudte, Thomas B. White, Treasurer Mike Hadix and Secretary Bette-jeanne H. Schreier

**GUESTS:** Southampton Fire Department 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Joe Corr, Linda de Bottari representing the Cold Spring Point Association, Michael Conte, CEO of Syntax Communication Group and Terry Gilbert, Director of Operations of Syntax Communication Group

Public Participation - Linda de Bottari representing the Cold Spring Point Association requested that the Board of Directors of the Southampton Fire District write a letter to the association indicating that a snow-plowing contract for this association is not a requirement prior to the Southampton Fire Department's response to any emergency in their area. She explained that several new homeowners have indicated that a snow-plowing contract was necessary in the area because the roads in Cold Spring Point are private. These same homeowners feel that the association should pay for this contract via dues paid to the association. Mrs. de Bottari, who has been a summer resident for 36 years, represents the homeowners who feel that this expense is excessive. Chief Corr stated that the fire department would respond to any emergency to the best of their ability. Mrs. de Bottari has taken this concern to Chiefs Wines and Cooke who referred her to the Town of Southampton Fire Marshal's office. The fire marshal referred her to the Southampton Fire District.

Commissioner Press explained that a request of this nature had to be forwarded to the Village of Southampton because the district contracts with them for fire protection. The secretary will forward Mrs. de Bottari's letter as well as a copy of a sample letter supplied by the chairman of the Cold Spring Point Association John Iacono. Copies of these two letters are attached to these minutes.

Chief's Report - Chief Corr reported on the incidents of the Southampton Fire Department from 10 August - 14 September 2006. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Also, Chief Corr had the secretary read a letter from the Jefferson Fire District located in Jefferson, NY. It was a thank you letter for the donation of equipment,

hose and air packs that Southampton Fire Department sent upstate. It also indicated that the department may donate the 1978 International brush truck to this district. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes.

Chief Corr had the blue prints of the proposed hook and ladder truck and offered to let any of the commissioners review them.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Steudte to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2006 as presented. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	
Mr. Price	Aye			<u>VS3-89</u>

A motion was made by Mr. Grisnik and seconded by Mr. White to approve the 9 vouchers presented by Treasurer Hadix for payment. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	
Mr. Price	Aye			<u>VS3-90</u>

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed (a corrected copy attached herein). A motion was made by Mr. Grisnik and seconded by Mr. Price to accept the Treasurer's report with noted corrections. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	
Mr. Price	Aye			<u>VS3-91</u>

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

The commissioners would like to send a newsletter to the district, and perhaps the village, to keep all abreast of what is going on and educate our constituents. Representatives from Syntax Communications Group, Michael Conte and Terry Gilberti, discussed various scenarios for a quarterly newsletter. Items that may be included are recent news, safety tips, updates on fire department activities, and notices of election to name a few. It was decided that Syntax would supply a template prior to the October meeting for the district to use for this purpose.

#### Committee Reports

Fire Protection Contract – Commissioners White and Price updated the board on the two meetings (5 September and 13 September, 2006) held with the Village of Southampton

regarding the 2007 Protection Contract. The Village proposed a 3 year contract. The Village Budget Operating Expenses would be split 50/50. On the proposed worksheet which was updated on 1 September, the total Village Budget Costs is \$995, 294 making the portion due from the Southampton Fire District - \$497,647. The Reserve accounts total \$800,000 and this figure will remain the same for the three years of the contract.

The District recommended that the District pay the Village of Southampton \$100,000 of their \$400,000 portion of the designated reserves and deposit the \$300,000 balance in a separate reserve account maintained by the Fire District. The Village of Southampton requested \$200,000 from the District rather than \$100,000. This agreement would be included in the protection contract including an exit clause in the event of a merger or change in the Fire District. Thereby, this reserve account would be turned over to the Reserve Fund of the new Fire District. By the end of the second year of this contract, it was discussed that the District and the Village would know at that time if they would be staying together.

The portion of the contract paid directly to the Southampton Fire Department would remain the same for the life of the three year contract. The amount designated was \$175,000.

To date the request to Trustee Robinson for audited numbers for the direct expenses (\$413,822) have not been received.

The Village of Southampton also requested that the Village Budget Operating Expenses be increased by 9½ % for the year 2008 and again in 2009. This would increase the District’s cost approximately by \$47,000 in 2008 and \$50,000 in 2009. The Board of Fire Commissioners does not agree with this percentage but will accept this proposal.

On a motion made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Price, it was resolved that the Secretary would send a letter to the Village of Southampton with the following proposal:

A Three (3) Year Contract with the Southampton Fire District paying 50% of the Village Budget Operating Expenses of \$497,647 for 2007. The Village Administrator has estimated that the operating expenses will increase 9½ % for 2008 and 2009. The Commissioners accept this suggestion even though they do not agree with the amount presented in this year’s worksheet and have not received an audit of the actual direct expenses.

The Fire District will pay the Village \$100,000 toward the reserve accounts and deposit \$300,000 in a separate reserve account to be maintained by the District each year of the three year contract. This figure will remain constant for the life of the contract.

The Fire District will pay the Southampton Fire Department \$175,000 each year of the three year contract. This figure will remain constant for the life of the contract.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye		

VS3-92

Fire District Budget – The proposed 2007 budget was discussed and changes were made in accordance with the changes of the proposed protection contract with the Village of

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Southampton. A corrected copy is attached herein.

On motion made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Price, the Proposed Budget for the Southampton Fire District of \$1,626,506 was accepted by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye		

VS3-93

Treasurer Hadix will submit the 2007 budget to the Town Clerk by 20 September 2006 as per state law.

Wells, Hydrants & Water Mains – The four requests from the Town of Southampton Planning Board will be reviewed and recommendations will be sent.

Old Business – The request to the Town Clerk to use a room at the Southampton Town Hall for our annual election to be held on December 12, 2006 was denied. No rooms are available for the date requested.

Commissioner Press reported that Councilwoman Linda Kabot informed him that the mailing sent prior to our bond vote in July by unknown persons was in violation of the Election Law. The party or parties were obligated to file with the Suffolk County Board of Elections prior to such a mailing if any one contributed over \$99.00. Mr. Richard Braun provided the mailing service but stated that he signed a confidential nondisclosure note prior to completing the mailing.

Commissioner Press has contacted attorney Stanley E. Orzechowski for an opinion on what procedure the Board of Fire Commissioners could pursue regarding the misinformation circulated in this publication. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed his reply regarding this especially concerning the allegation that the fire commissioners receive salaries. This allegation of criminal conduct may be viewed as defamatory and the commissioners could prepare and serve a Notice of Claim subject to ninety (90) days from the incident.

A motion made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. White to hire the Law Offices of Stanley E. Orzechowski, PC of 542 North Country Road, Suite B, St. James, NY 11780 to represent the Southampton Fire District in the preparation and serving of a Notice of Claim regarding the anonymous publication distributed prior to the Special Election vote of the Southampton Fire District held on July 18, 2006. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye
Mr. Price	No		

VS3-94

Commissioner Price reported that many of the hydrant markers have been placed with the help of the junior fire department. However, there is still a definite problem with brush around many of the hydrants. Commissioner Press reported that North Sea Fire District have hired two people to trim around their hydrants and install the posts. Commissioner Grisnik spoke with Judge Kooperstein who received our request to participate in the community service program. She has not had time to assign anyone at this point. It was suggested that another letter be sent to Highway Superintendent Masterson with a copy to Supervisor Heaney regarding the problem with overgrowth around the hydrants.

New Business – Treasurer Hadix requested permission to attend a Fire District Accountability Seminar to be held at the Cornell Cooperative Education building in Riverhead, NY on October 16, 2006.

On a motion made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Grisnik, the Board approved the request for Treasurer Hadix to attend the Fire District Accountability Seminar on October 16, 2006 on October 16, 2006. The District will pay for the \$15.00 registration fee. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	
Mr. Price	Aye			<u>VS3-95</u>

It was suggested that the Secretary contact our attorney, William F. Glass, Jr. regarding per diem costs for commissioners and other members of the district who attend conferences or seminars.

A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. White at 9:37 PM to recess to executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	
Mr. Price	Aye			<u>VS3-96</u>

The commissioners discussed legal aspects of purchasing property for future use.

A letter of resignation has been received from the secretary affective December 31, 2006.

The executive session was adjourned at 9:51 PM and the Board of Fire Commissioners returned to the regular meeting.

The Board of Fire Commissioners acknowledges and accepts the letter of resignation of Secretary Schreier with deep regret.

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A motion was made by Mr. Press and seconded by Mr. Steudte to authorize the District attorney, William F. Glass, Jr., to negotiate a continuance of the existing contract with amendments to certain terms and conditions subject to further approval. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	No	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	
Mr. Price	Aye			<u>VS3-97</u>

There being no further business to be brought before the Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, a motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. Grisnik to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye	
Mr. Press	Aye	Mr. White	Aye	
Mr. Price	Aye			<u>VS3-98</u>

Chairman Press declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette-jeanne H. Schreier  
Secretary