

REGULAR MEETING

SOUTHAMPTON FIRE DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 8, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire 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, copy of which is attached hereto. The meeting opened at 7:29 PM with the salute to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Commissioners Robert Grisnik, W. Mark Press (who arrived late), David Price, Harald Steudte, Treasurer Michael Hadix and Secretary Nicole Hadix

ABSENT: Commissioner Tom White

GUESTS: Southampton Fire Department Chief Joe Corr. Also in attendance were Rodney Pierson Sr. and Fred Andrews.

Commissioner Grisnik started the meeting by saying the Public Participation portion of the meeting would be attended to at a later point.

He also pointed out two Commissioners were not in attendance for the start of the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. Price to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2007 and the Budget Hearing of October 16, 2007. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye		

VH4-105

Chief Corr made a suggestion for future minutes to differentiate between Chief Rodney Pierson and Mr. Rodney Pierson. The minutes from here on will read Chief Pierson and Mr. Pierson Sr.

A motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Steudte to approve the fifteen vouchers presented by Treasurer Hadix for payment. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye		

VH4-106

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

Mr. Grisnik	Aye	Mr. Steudte	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye		

VH4-107

Commissioner Grisnik asked what the interest was on the Fire District's money. The Treasurer answered the funds are in 7 day CD's receiving 4 ½ % with local banks. Commissioner Steudte asked if the accounts had to be guaranteed. Treasurer Hadix said the accounts were all collateralized, secured by stock, which is required for all municipal funds.

The Treasurer stated some money will have to be moved into the reserve funds before the end of the year of 2007. For the budget, the Treasurer estimated \$350,000 will be placed into the building reserve fund and \$47,459 into the apparatus fund. The Treasurer will construct a motion for next months meeting regarding this transfer of funds.

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

Committee Reports

Fire District Budget – The Secretary hand delivered the 2008 budget to town hall on October 25, 2007.

Fire Protection Contract – Within the first year of a 3 year contract. The Mayor proposed opening up the current contract to discuss options. Commissioner Grisnik asked him to put together a proposal.

Long Range Planning – Property on North Sea Road is at the Planning Board stage. We are currently waiting on the health department approval for the subdivision approval. The current owner must satisfy some health department issues. Commissioner Price said the owner must bring the two septic systems, on the two parcels which he will retain, up to code before the subdivision will be approved. Chief Corr asked if that would be at the current owners cost. Commissioner Price answered yes. Commissioner Price said this Board was advised that complying with the health department would take the longest. He stated the Board could prepare the site plan in the interim and hopes for completion in about six months.

Wells, Hydrants & Water Mains – Commissioner Steudte asked if there had been any correspondence from the SCWA regarding construction on County Road 39. Commissioner Price said he and Commissioner Press met with the SCWA regarding placing 12 inch water mains along the road. They also discussed relocating hydrants;

one hydrant by Burger King, one by Henry Road, one by St. Andrews Road and another between St. Andrews Road and Tuckahoe Road. Since this stretch of road is not developed, the hydrants do not need to be located as close as is standard. Commissioner Steudte asked how the SCWA will go around the bridge. Commissioner Price said it will probably be strapped to the outside of the bridge like they have done on other bridges in the area, but one would have to ask the water authority for installation specifics. Chief Corr asked if a hydrant could be placed on Greenfield Road. Commissioner Price said this Board has asked in writing for a hydrant on Greenfield and Hills Station Road six months to a year ago. No progress has been made on this issue at this time. Commissioner Price stated he attended a town meeting and spoke at length about needed hydrants on both the North and South side of County Road 39. The Town is very aware of this issue.

Old Business – Commissioner Grisnik reminded everyone about the upcoming election. The election will be held on December 11, 2007 at the Tuckahoe school between 5pm and 9pm. One Commissioner will be elected for a term beginning Jan 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2012. This seat is currently held by Commissioner Press. If anyone wants to be a candidate they must file notice with the secretary no later than November 21, 2007. Commissioner Grisnik stated the new Commissioner elected this term is required by law to attend six hours of training. This training entails legal, fiduciary, financial, procurement, and ethical responsibilities and other topics determined by the State Comptroller's Office. Three dates have been established for this training course and they are as follows: February 2, 2008 in Medford, April 5, 2008 in Riverhead and June 14, 2008 in Hauppauge. This training must be satisfied within 270 days of taking office. Chief Corr questioned if the current Board of Commissioners had to attend this training. Commissioner Grisnik answered no. The new law went into effect on January 22, 2007, all commissioners elected, before that date, are not required to take the course.

New Business – Commissioner Steudte mentioned the newsletter. Commissioner Grisnik said the Board wanted to send out a newsletter to all constituents before the election, informing them of the election and who the applicants are. Since Commissioner White is spearheading this project and he is absent, the Board will review this plan at another time.

Public Participation – Mr. Andrews said he thought the meeting with the Fire Department was a good first step but what is the next step going to be. Not all of the questions of the Fire Department members have been answered. For example, what will the relationship be between the Board and the Chiefs or the Council? Commissioner Price said the Chiefs would report to the Board of Commissioners and work with the Board for budgeting for the present and future. He said he doesn't see many differences between how the department works now and how it would work after unification; in fact the Chiefs would have as much or more authority.

Commissioner Price thanked Chief Corr for running a good meeting and said another meeting in 4 to 6 weeks would be beneficial. He said he has already been invited to a Company meeting and he feels smaller meetings would be better.

Commissioner Grisnik said if the Fire Department Companies have questions, the Board of Commissioners would be happy to come and answer them, upon invitation.

Mr. Andrews asked if the Fire District could put together written information for all departments, stating what would change and what would stay the same. Commissioner Grisnik said the Board could work on a "frequently asked questions" format. Mr. Andrews mentioned a few examples, like would new bylaws for the Fire Department be established before unification or after. He also asked about the new Board of Commissioners. Chairman Grisnik said the Town and Village would appoint a new Board of Commissioners, then after 1 year there would be an election for those positions. He stated a Chief or Assistant Chief could not be a Commissioner. Mr. Andrews asked if a Captain could hold the position of Commissioner. Mr. Grisnik responded he would have to look into that further. He stated the Board doesn't have all the answers but is trying to find the answers to the Fire Department's questions. Mr. Grisnik read aloud State Law 174 paragraph 4 which states "a Commissioner may not be a District Treasurer, or a Chief or Assistant Chief of the Fire Department". The rest of this state law would have to be researched. Chief Corr asked if that refers to the Fire Department that the District contracts with. Chairman Grisnik said it refers to a Fire Department that is part of the District. The Treasurer suggested the Board clarify that information.

Mr. Steudte stated this Board has to consider two options both running in parallel. The first option which is the optimum is to unify; the second is to assume that may not happen and we move to a separate Fire Department. He said he doesn't believe the Village wants to unify, it would not be in their best interest monetarily to do so. 75% of the Fire Department money comes from the District. Mr. Steudte said the Fire District has been able to save money for the benefit of the Fire Department in a few short years. The Village has never done that. He stated if the merge happens there is a very large sum of tax money available to run the new Fire District.

Mr. Pierson Sr. asked if this District receives any money for answering automatic false alarms. He said a neighboring District is trying to get the cost of answering these alarms raised. Chairman Grisnik said the money collected goes to the Police Department. Chief Corr asked if that is how it is handled in the surrounding Districts. Chairman Grisnik stated yes as far as the town of Southampton. Commissioner Price said it would be dangerous to raise the cost too high, some properties may turn off their alarms and that would create a dangerous situation. Also commercial properties are required by law to contact the Fire Department first. Commissioner Price said he has suggested to the Town Board that they contact Albany and have the Fire and Police Departments only answer automatic alarms of commercial properties with highlife threat. The rest should be answered by private security firms. Mr. Pierson Sr. said he would like to see the Fire District and Fire Department get the benefit of that money instead of the Police Department.

Chiefs Report – Chief Corr handed the Board a 3 page “Incident Type Report by District”. The report is dated 01/01/2007 to 11/07/2007. The category 01 refers to the Village, 02 refers to the District, 03 refers to Water Mill, and 04 is the Reservation. Chief Corr said he has to confirm the 03 category; it could also be mutual aid situations. Totals for these dates are: 60 fires, 1 overpressure rupture, 36 rescue & EMS, 89 hazardous condition, 75 service calls, 40 good intent calls, 434 false alarms, 5 severe weather, and 5 special incidents. Total calls 745; 428 for the Village and 295 for the District. Commissioner Steudte asked how these numbers compare to last year. Chief Corr answered the numbers are higher then last year.

The Chief mentioned the Montessori school has contacted him and requested to utilize the Shinnecock Fire House in the case of emergency. Chief Corr said he didn’t feel that was a good idea since that fire house would be used during the emergency by the firemen and recommended they contact the college as another option.

A motion was made by Mr. Steudte and seconded by Mr. Price at 8:25 PM to recess to executive session to discuss legal matters. The motion was approved by the following vote.

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

VH4-108

Mr. Orzechowski was present to discuss the Fire District’s lawsuit. He advised the Board that the Village lawsuit could not be dropped at this time since it was currently before the court in tandem with the Braun lawsuit. The Board will review this issue in the coming months.

The executive session was adjourned at 9:45 and the Board of Commissioners returned to their regular meeting. No further business was conducted.

Chairman Grisnik declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Hadix
Secretary