

**The Board of Fire Commissioners  
Portsmouth Fire Department**

Station 1  
March 16, 2004

Portsmouth, NH  
1900 hours

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 1902 hours with Chief LeClaire leading the Pledge of Allegiance along with a moment of silence for the fallen firefighter in Laconia. Along with Chairman Hughes and Chief LeClaire, present were Commissioners Gamester and Wentworth; Assistant Chief Achilles; Deputy Chief Griswold.

**II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Motion to accept the minutes of February 11, 2004 made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

**III. Reports:**

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Motion made to accept Chief's Reports 04-016 through 04-020 by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

B. Other: None.

**IV. Old Business:**

Chief presented Commission with copies of the Firefighters and Fire Officers contracts that were accepted by the City Council at their March 1, 2004 meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Hughes to sign contracts accordingly, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

**V. Presentations of Written Communications:** None.

**VI. New Business:**

Chief led discussion on FY05 Budget and his meeting with the City Manager on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Meeting went extremely well. School, Police and Fire are coming in with a 9.5% increase. City Manager is asking departments to consider 8.5 – 9% increase. Public expects taxes will be going down because Portsmouth will no longer be a “donor” community but in fact will more than likely be going up. Chief did note to the City Manager that the Earned Leave program is new for the department and not sure of its savings. Also, Emergency Recall has always been an unknown.

*Minutes from March 16, 2004 continued:*

Chief LeClaire brought to the Commission's attention the Work Session with City Council to review Fire Department's FY05 Budget is on May 4, 2004 at 1830 hours in Conference Room A at City Hall.

Chief LeClaire advised the Commission that a bus would be leaving Station 1 at 0700 hours tomorrow, 3/17, for funeral in Laconia and welcomed them along.

**VII. Recognition of Groups of Individuals:** None.

**VIII. Public Hearings:** None.

**IX. Non-public Session:** None.

**X. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 1925 hours made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

---

Richard Gamester, Clerk