

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

Station 2
January 25, 2012

Portsmouth, NH
1900 hours

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Richard Gamester called the meeting to order at 1900 hours and led Pledge of Allegiance. Along with Chairman Gamester, present were: Commissioners Paul Wentworth and Michael Hughes; Chief Christopher LeClaire; Assistant Chief Steven Achilles; City Attorney Robert Sullivan; Attorney Tom Closson; Attorney Richard Molan; Fire Inspector Carl Roediger; Councilor Robert Lister; Retirees Val Pamboukes and Steven Griswold; Members of the Public and the Fire Department. Chuck McMahon from Portsmouth Herald represented the media.

Commissioner Wentworth made the motion to suspend the rules and move item IX, 12-008, Public Hearing, to beginning of meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

IX. Public Hearings:

Chief LeClaire presented the proposed FY13 budget with a PowerPoint presentation. Budget guideline is an increase of 2.9%. FY13 budget is currently \$7,156,715 with all approved positions filled, 14 personnel per shift and three fire stations operational which is 4.9% over FY12. This does not include the \$150K supplemental request since it is not money we actually have yet stated Chief LeClaire. If the City Council were to approve the \$150K supplemental, our FY13 Budget would increase approximately 2.7% over FY12.

Various members of the public spoke offering ideas of volunteers running the ambulance out of Station 3 to perhaps having fundraisers for station 3 like selling parts of the bridge to having the public rent out space at the fire stations for parties and such. Retired Captain Pamboukes spoke in favor of the Chief's proposed budget along with Retired Deputy Chief Griswold who noted that manpower is the only thing that can perform the tasks of firefighting and provide the necessary medical care to people.

Public hearing was closed at 1941 hours and regular meeting resumed.

Minutes of January 25, 2012 Continued:

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to approve the minutes of December 21, 2011, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth unanimous.

III. Public Comment Session: None.

IV. Recognition of Groups or Individuals: None.

V. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

After brief discussion on report 12-005, Expenditure Status Report, and the deficit still existing which will be addressed on February 6th at the City Council meeting, motion was made to approve Chief's Reports 12-002 through 12-006, by Commissioner Wentworth seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

B. Staff Reports:

Asst. Chief Achilles spoke of heart health and the community being recognized by the State of NH in February as a Heart Safe Community. The department will share this partnership with Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

Mobile data terminals are being installed in the apparatus which will allow firefighters to see dispatch information while in enroute to improve efficiency.

Inspector Roediger noted the development projects currently taking place in Portsmouth.

- Expansion and renovation of the Portsmouth Middle School
- Portwalk Phase III
- Service Credit Union
- 51 Islington Street-Completion of Phase I and design for Phase II
- Hyder Court subdivision
- Spinney Road subdivision
- Residential development on Brewery Lane
- New industrial building on Constitution Ave
- Multi building development on Bridge St.
- Renovation of former Lollipop Factory building on Vaughn St for 3S Artspace

Minutes of January 25, 2012 Continued:

- Redevelopment of former Yokens site into multi-building commercial
- Redevelopment of Bournival Jeep site into multi-building commercial
- Army Reserve Center on Lafayette Road

VI. Old Business: None.

VII. Presentations of Written Communications:

Chairman Gamester read thank you letter from Ozzie Hardy. Motion, to accept and place on file, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

VIII. New Business:

Calendar of upcoming FY13 budget meetings noted along with City Council retreat scheduled for January 28, 2012.

X. Non-public Session:

Motion to enter into Non-public session at 1949 hours to discuss a personnel matter, made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimously.

Motion to come out of Non-public session at 2102 hours made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimously.

Motion, to seal the minutes of the non-public session on actions that were taken in non-public on personnel matter and notification of actions taken to be sent to the appropriate parties involved, made by Commissioner Wentworth, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimously.

XI. Adjournment:

Motion, to adjourn meeting at 2106 hours made by Commissioner Wentworth at, seconded by Chairman Gamester, unanimous.

Paul Wentworth, Clerk