

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

Central Fire Station
February 20, 2013

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; Deputy Fire Chief Carl Roediger and Captain Todd Germain.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to approve the minutes of January 16, 2013, made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

III. Public Comment Session: None.

IV. Recognition of Groups or Individuals: None.

V. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Brief discussion took place on report 13-012, Expenditure Status report. Chief noted the budget continues to track extremely tight and we are making adjustments as we go.

Motion, to approve Chief's Reports 13-009 through 13-013, was made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

B. Staff Reports:

Asst. Chief Achilles spoke of the Bow Street fire and it being a strategically challenging fire. Damage estimates are coming in at \$3M. Probationary firefighters are progressing. Advertising for firefighter places statewide. Sixty resumes received. Some do not have the minimum credentials the department requires but plans are to bring in about sixteen to interview prior to scheduling an oral board. On Friday, February 22, 2013, three of our Paramedic students will be graduating. On duty training continues.

Deputy Chief Roediger reported on the Bow Street Fire as well and the losses seem to increase day by day. Recommendations for changes have been made to the management company with one recommendation being with the

Minutes from February 20, 2013 Continued:

standpipes and the need to split the connections to garages and One Harbor Place. Reconstruction of Rosa's Restaurant is in the process and will have six residential units above it. Phase II of 52 Islington Street is ongoing. Yoken's site is currently being cleared for construction to begin on a new Rite Aid and a Bank/Retail/Restaurant facility.

VI. Old Business: None.

VII. Presentations of Written Communications:

Chairman Gamester read thank you note from Jean Walsh.

Motion, to accept and place on file, made by Commissioner Wentworth, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

VIII. New Business:

Chief LeClaire presented the new bundled Emergency Medical Service rates for calendar year 2013. According to the City's third party ambulance billing company, Comstar, Medicare has phased out "a la carte" rate schedule and have transitioned to a "bundled" rate schedule which will allow the City to position itself for the time if/when Obamacare becomes fully implemented and provider reimbursements begin to flow through Accountable Care Organizations which are new managed care entities envisioned under the Obama plan. The bundling rates will not result in higher total reimbursements of claims.

Motion, to approve the 2013 Emergency Medical Service rates, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

Article on Secoastonline.com spoke about the Doble Center on Cottage Street which is the old armory and the possible uses for the space. David Moore had a presentation to the City Council showing some who wanted to see it opened up again and used as a public safety center rather than athletic fields and some who would like to see it as housing. City Manager will hold a work session in the future.

21 Brewster Street – department is involved however, more of a health department and building inspector issue along with neighborhood issue. Owner made the necessary repairs back in 2007 and has complied with recommendations of installing fire doors.

Minutes from February 20, 2013 Continued:

The Estate of Geraldine Webber has been distributed and it is estimated that the Fire Department will be receiving \$25,000.

Capital Improvement adopted last night. SCBA replacement approved however needs to be addressed sooner than July 2013 because of a tremendous price increase anticipated. City Manager has instructed Chief to work with Finance in to find the funds needed to support the replacement now.

IX. Public Hearings: None.

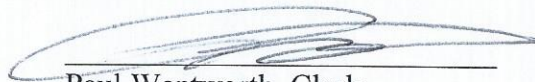
X. Non-public Session:

Motion, to enter into Non-public session to discuss personnel matter at 1950 hours, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

Motion, to come out of Non-public session with no votes taken at 2015 hours, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

XI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 2016 hours made by Commissioner Wentworth, seconded by Chairman Gamester, unanimous.



Paul Wentworth, Clerk