

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

Central Fire Station
April 24, 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: Commissioner Michael Hughes; Chief Christopher LeClaire; Assistant Chief Steven Achilles; Deputy Fire Chief Carl Roediger; Captain Ken Smith; Firefighters: Condon, Young, Cole and O'Brien, Chuck McMahon, Portsmouth Herald and Bob Cook, The Portsmouth Patch.

Excused: Commissioner Wentworth due to illness.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to approve the minutes of March 20, 2013, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, 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 13-028, Expenditure Status report. Chief noted the budget is tracking currently with a surplus however, we continue to monitor it closely.

Motion, to approve Chief's Reports 13-025 through 13-029, was made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Chairman Gamester, unanimous.

B. Staff Reports:

Asst. Chief Achilles reported on operations which included Ipads for apparatus, two new hires beginning May 6th, one firefighter on extended disability leave due to an off-duty injury, grant funded training, new ambulance and replacement of SCBA's

Minutes from March 20, 2013 Continued:

Deputy Roediger reported on Fire Prevention and the updating of IMC data for use with Ipads in the apparatus. Showing positive benefits with department members.

VI. Old Business: None.

VII. Presentations of Written Communications:

Chairman Gamester read thank you note from L. Leavitt.

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

VIII. New Business:

Chief spoke briefly about the donation from the Kearsage SFE Historical Association.

Motion, to accept donation from Kearsage SFE Historical Association in the amount of \$2,661.19 and \$15.00 from anonymous, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

Chairman Gamester read Chief LeClaire's resignation letter and then noted some of his accomplishments during his 13-years with the department.

Chairman Gamester made the motion, reluctantly accepting the resignation of Chief LeClaire as of May 31, 2013 which was seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

Commissioner Hughes made the motion to appoint a new Fire Chief which was seconded by Chairman Gamester, unanimous.

Commissioner Hughes spoke of how fortunate the department is to have a candidate who has worked with us for the past 12-years and has been a key player in the management team. The Commission believes he will continue to maintain the "moving forward" momentum of the department.

Hughes motioned to appoint Assistant Fire Chief Steven Achilles to the rank of Fire Chief effective June 1, 2013, seconded by Chairman Gamester, unanimous.

Minutes from April 24, 2013 Continued:


Captain Smith commented on his disappointment in the hiring process of the new fire chief. Typically one is put into "acting" status prior to being appointed he said however, did feel Asst. Chief Achilles is deserving of it.

IX. Public Hearings: None.

X. Non-public Session: None.

XI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 1935 hours made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.



Paul Wentworth, Clerk