

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

Central Fire Station
June 19, 2013

Portsmouth, NH
1900 hours

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Richard Gamester called the meeting to order at 1905 hours and led Pledge of Allegiance. Along with Chairman Gamester, present were: Commissioners: Paul Wentworth and Michael Hughes; Chief Steven Achilles; Deputy Fire Chief Carl Roediger; department members and Achilles family.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to approve the minutes of May 22, 2013, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

III. Public Comment Session: None.

IV. Recognition of Groups or Individuals:

Chairman Gamester swore in Fire Chief Steven Achilles.

V. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Brief discussion on anticipated changes to the Fire Chief reports to reflect benchmarks. Chairman Gamester made the request to have overtime renamed to shift coverage" to more accurately reflect how the department operates. FY13 budget still anticipates a higher than usual surplus due to many variations in department staffing with retirements and the freezing of spending mid-year. A list of items will be presented to the City Manager for use of these funds which will primarily focus on repairs to station 3.

Motion, to approve Chief's Reports 13-044 through 13-048, was made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

B. Staff Reports:

Chief Achilles reported on the operations of the department with the SCBA airpak replacements in house and training being conducted next week on the new bottles. Anticipate being in service shortly. Department will use current masks for now as we wait for the newer masks to come out late August. Once the new masks come in the old ones will be traded in.

Minutes from June 19, 2013 Continued:

New ambulance has arrived and is at Raitt's for lettering. Repairs to the HVAC system at Station 1 continue with roof top units needing to have some mechanical work done.

Deputy Roediger reported on the South Gate Plaza plans with a new cinema being added which will have nine screens. Old Portwalk complex is being redeveloped with plans for a 4-story building and parking underneath. Connie Bean's redevelopment has some major changes being done which includes adding 2-stories on top and parking will be underneath both sections. Portwalk Place will have separate fire alarm panels for residences and hotel to better identify areas of concern in an emergency. 300 Constitution will be a large industrial project. Plans continue to come in for new projects as well.

VI. Old Business: None.

VII. Presentations of Written Communications: None.

VIII. New Business:

Chief Achilles followed up regarding the article in the newspaper regarding millions of dollars being spent on overtime and channel 13 doing interview today in the station on same subject.

With the request for a new station being pushed back each year, our request to renovate station 3 was discussed with the City Manager and he is committed to using surplus funds from our FY13 budget to support the work. We will be working with PW Director in coordinating efforts.

Chairman Gamester continues to express his disappointment in the landscape of Station 2 for a brand new building. Chief Achilles is working with Public Works to find out what they do and don't do for us and will be obtaining quotes on weeding and mulching before the end of July.

IX. Public Hearings: None.

X. Non-public Session:

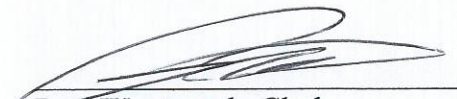
Motion to enter into Non-Public session to discuss personnel matter at 1930 hours, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

Motion to come out of Non-public with no votes taken at 2010 hours, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

Minutes from June 19, 2013 Continued:

XI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 2015 hours made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.



Paul Wentworth, Clerk