

067

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

Central Fire Station
September 11, 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. Commissioner Hughes led moment of silence in recognition of the victims of 9/11. Along with Chairman Gamester and Commissioner Hughes, present were: Commissioner Paul Wentworth; Chief Steven Achilles; Deputy Fire Chief Carl Roediger; Acting Deputy Chief James Heinz; Captain Michael Hogan; Firefighters: Russ Osgood, Rick Condon and Jon Gray; and Portsmouth Resident Robert Shouse

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to approve the minutes of August 21, 2013, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

III. Public Comment Session: None.

IV. Recognition of Groups or Individuals:

Chairman Gamester congratulated Chief Achilles on earning his Master's Degree in Public Administration.

V. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Chief Achilles reviewed reports with Commission.

Motion, to approve Chief's Reports 13-063 through 13-066, was made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

B. Staff Reports:

Deputy Roediger provided update on Prevention. Hampton Fire asked for our assistance on an investigation of a fire in their town. Wrap up of the Police Department investigation is in its final stages. Worked with ATF and State Fire Marshal's Office on this investigation because of its complexity. Met with the developers of Portwalk III. Residential spaces on the upper floors of

Minutes from September 11, 2013 Continued:

the building will be taking up more space than the hotel piece. The Fire Alarm system being installed is expected to be "firefighter friendly" DC Roediger state and added that it will include pressurized stairwells. Inspector Howe will be attending the National Fire Academy at the end of this month for additional training in Fire Investigations. NFA covers all costs for this training other than meal ticket.

Acting Deputy Heinz provided an update on department operations, trainings and community service events scheduled in the upcoming weeks. The department will be recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and will be wearing pink shirts from October 12th – 19th. Have invited New Castle and Greenland Firefighters to ride along with us and will be assisting Greenland Fire Department with their trainings.

VI. Old Business:

Chief Achilles provided follow up the Public Eye which is an iPad product. Inspector Howe has been working diligently to get the project up and running and it is now in all apparatus which allows us to be more efficient and able to mitigate problems faster. Will be looking into interfacing product with Apple TV.

VII. Presentations of Written Communications: None.

VIII. New Business:

Chief Achilles reported on professional development and what department members may want to consider for advancement within the department or perhaps outside of the department. From fire safety and training courses to educational degrees, this handout provides an outline and is in no way intended to supersede current policies nor is it a requirement for advancement.

In keeping up with social media, the department now has a Twitter account which will allow information to be released that we feel may be of interest to the public such as press-releases and fire incidents happening within the city, etc. During emergencies it will provide the department with another method of letting the public know about road closures, EOC operations and other emergency related information. Chief will oversee this process along with IT and will be the only ones able to initiate a Tweet for right now.

Committee on Fire Department Study met last week. Charge of the Committee was changed slightly to reflect delivery of services rather than just cost. September 17, 2013 at 8AM is next meeting and it will be held at Station 1, training room.

Minutes from September 11, 2013 Continued:

IX. Public Hearings: None.

X. Non-public Session:


Motion to enter into Non-Public session to discuss personnel matter at 1955 hours, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

Motion to come out of Non-public session at 2000 hours, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

Motion, to approve the tentative contract for Deputy Fire Chief James Heinz and to forward it to City Council for approval as soon as possible, was made by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Chairman Gamester, unanimous.

XI. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 2005 hours made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.



Paul Wentworth, Clerk