

SOMERSET FIRE/RESCUE COMMISSION
Minutes of the January 10, 2006 Meeting

Call to Order: Chairperson Roy called the meeting to order at 7:58 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present - Shane Demulling, Rita Lawson, Gerry Mullenberg, Jerry Neumann (non-voting member), Bartt Palmer, and Tom Roy. Absent - Dave Parnell. Also attending - Many members of the Fire/Rescue Department.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: *Motion by Mullenberg, second by Palmer to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting.*

Public Input: None.

New Business: Cell phone policy – Commission members asked whether department-owned cell phones were needed. Members reported the phones in the 3 trucks cost very little through a government program, the chief's and assistant chief's phones were with Nextel and might be costly to cancel. Various options and considerations about cell phones and the need for a policy were discussed. *Motion by Mullenberg, second by Demulling to table discussion.*

Fire inspections – *Motion by Mullenberg, second by Palmer to table discussion.*

Complaint procedure - *Motion by Mullenberg, second by Palmer to table discussion.*

Payroll questions - *Motion by Mullenberg, second by Palmer to table discussion.*

Demulling read the resignation letter from Chief Parnell and the resignation letter from Assistant Chief Reed. Demulling reported he and Mullenberg had interviewed the Chief, Assistant Chief and all but 6 members of the department.

Motion by Mullenberg, second by Lawson to convene to closed session per ss 19.85(1)(b) considering dismissal, demotion, or discipline of a Fire/Rescue employee. The closed session was convened at 8:22 p.m.

Motion by Mullenberg, second by Palmer to reconvene to open session. Chairman Roy reconvened the open session at 9:45 p.m.

Motion by Lawson, second by Mullenberg that, after careful consideration of all aspects and the short time involved, the Commission stand by its August 29, 2005 disciplinary action requesting the resignation of the Assistant Chief and suspending him for three years from eligibility to be an officer. Roll call vote: Unanimous.

Motion by Demulling, second by Mullenberg to convene to closed session per ss 19.85(1)(c) considering the employment of a Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. The closed session was convened at 9:50 p.m.

Motion by Mullenberg, second by Demulling to reconvene to open session. Chairman Roy reconvened the open session at 11:00 p.m.

Motion by Roy, second by Palmer to accept the resignation of Dave Parnell from the Chief position and from department membership.

Motion by Mullenberg, second by Palmer to accept the resignation of Julie Reed from the Assistant Chief position.

Motion by Lawson, second by Mullenberg to appoint Bruno Reed to the Chief position.

Motion by Palmer, second by Demulling to appoint Jason Crotty to the Assistant Chief position for an interim term.

Commissioners thanked department members for their dedicated service and invited them to future Commission meetings to facilitate good communication and decisions.

Adjourn: *Motion by Mullenberg, second by Palmer to adjourn.* Meeting adjourned at 11:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Lawson, Secretary

Next meeting: Joint Meeting, Monday, January 16, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall