

TNFD Commission Meeting
Minutes
May 10th, 2005

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Gallant at 1805 hrs. Present: Comm. Gallant, Comm. Sleeper, Comm. Harbour, Treasurer Seymour, Chief Carrier, Deputy Chief Robinson and Captain Ober.

Chief Carrier introduced Captain Ober to the Commissioners. Comm. Gallant suggested that Capt. Ober attend the monthly Commission meetings and give a brief update on fire prevention activities each month.

Comm. Sleeper made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 12th meeting. Comm. Gallant seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously. Comm. Gallant mentioned that the non-public session minutes from the same meeting should also be sealed. Comm. Gallant motioned to seal the non-public session minutes from the April 12th meeting. Comm. Sleeper seconded. Discussion followed with very non-specific reference to the fact that 2 issues were discussed that night and that when the 2nd issue has been clearly made public a motion to un-seal that portion of the minutes will be brought forward. The motion passed unanimously.

Treas. Seymour gave the Treasurer's report and reviewed the budget. There was some discussion of account lines 250, 343, 620, and 970. Also discussed was the recording of the Fire Prevention Trailer grant and how it is recorded in the budget; both as revenue and expense.

Old Business

Chief Carrier reported that the department has ordered a new ambulance from Specialty Vehicles from North Attleboro, MA. The vehicle will be virtually identical to our present 21A2, which is housed in the Center Street Station, except that it will be painted to match the color scheme on our fire apparatus – red with a white top.

Chief Carrier reported that the old forestry truck has been advertised with flyers in public places in an effort to solicit bids for the vehicle. The closing date on bids will be June 7th. The Commissioners will review the bids at their June 8th meeting and award the bid the next day.

Chief Carrier reported that the “older” inflatable boat (21B2) has been sold to the Belmont Fire Department for \$1. The chief reported that they are very happy with the boat and that it will remain available to us through normal mutual aid agreements.

Comm. Gallant reported on the quest for new pick up trucks. He is working with Tilton Ford in an attempt to secure 1 – 1 ton pickup truck, 4 door, 6’ bed and 1 – $\frac{3}{4}$ ton pickup truck, extra cab, 8’ bed. The 1 ton will be used to tow the fire prevention trailer and will be used by the fire prevention officer during his daily routine conducting inspections and public education. The $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck will be outfitted as a forestry truck, with a skid unit during the warm weather months and will be fitted with a plow frame and plow for the winter months. Discussion ensued with reference to the possibilities of obtaining these vehicles and financing them. Comm. Gallant will have more of an update next month. It is believed that the value of the current pickup truck is approximately \$6,000. It was also noted that the old forestry will be sold and that will be additional revenue.

Chief Carrier reported that the Park Street sewer project is completed and that we are tied in. Keyspan has called and has offered to run natural gas to the building for free. We would be responsible for converting our propane burners to natural gas. Comm. Sleeper suggested that the chief develop a spread sheet showing the potential costs/savings and present it next month.

Chief Carrier presented an updated draft of a proposed Sick Leave Policy for full time personnel. This generated a great deal of discussion. The chief proposed to eliminate the current policy which provides each employee with 5 days annually, that can be used as either sick time or personal time. He also proposed that the employees would earn 12 hours of sick time each month to a maximum of 384 hours, or 16 – 24 hour days. He also suggested in the draft that as an incentive to not abuse sick time, each employee would earn 1 personal day for each quarter they did not use a sick day. Sick time would be accumulated to a maximum of 384 hours, and personal days to a maximum of 96 hours.

A great deal of discussion ensued including a multitude of possibilities and potential changes to the draft.

In the end, it was suggested that employees earn a maximum of 288 hours, or 12 – 24 hour days of sick time and that the incentive portion of the draft

be eliminated. The chief will type up a new draft and submit it at next month's meeting.

Chief Carrier reported that he is continuing to research our ability to enact fire prevention ordinances as a fire district. He has a call into a Local Government Center lawyer for advice. Comm. Sleeper asked how we thought the towns would receive new ordinances. Comm. Gallant said there wouldn't be a lot of changes to the way we do business now except that we would formalize our enforcement authority and would possibly look to implement a fee structure. The Chief will report again next month.

Chief Carrier reported that we have not made any progress on establishing a fee for monitoring the master box system. This would probably become part of our Fire Prevention ordinances. Lt Ames is working to ensure that our boxes are being received appropriately at the Communications Center. The Chief's primary concern at this time is that we are paying for the dedicated line to the center while we continue to pay Mango for monitoring the system through a fire alarm panel. Once we are comfortable with the dedicated line and equipment at the communications center working correctly, we will eliminate the fire alarm system.

Chief Carrier reported that the electrical service upgrade of the Center Street Station is progressing slowly. Wayne Robichaud is using us as a fill in customer. The chief reported that there is no big rush as it does not present an immediate safety problem, but he will keep on top of the work.

Chief Carrier reported that after investigating the possibility of switching to Nextel phones he has decided to stay with US Cellular. Earlier in the week he ordered 6 phones from US. Although the plans are more expensive than the plans we were most recently on, they are the cheapest plans we could obtain for the desired coverage. The 6 phones were distributed to: Chief Carrier, Captain Ober, Engine 1, Engine 2, Ambulance 1, and Ambulance 2.

Comm. Sleeper asked about the status of the Polaris 6 wheeler. Discussion followed as to whether the department owned it yet, or not. The Chief reported that we do, in fact own it and it has been registered. Training will be conducted later this month and no one will be allowed to operate the vehicle unless they have been trained to operate it. Comm. Gallant would like to see the Betterment Fund and the Fire Department receive some

publicity since the Betterment Fund raised the money and donated the machine. The Chief will set that up.

New Business

Chief Carrier reported on the statistical information that he supplied the Commissioners. His analysis has shown a slight increase in nighttime response times. He indicated that last month there were numerous calls on the outskirts of our response districts. He also explained that most nighttime calls are to residences, not commercial occupancies. Many of the commercial occupancies are relatively close to the fire stations while the residences are very widespread. Comm. Sleeper would like to see a chart of response times with both before 24 hr. coverage and after 24 hr. coverage to see the differences. The chief will prepare the chart for the next meeting.

Comm. Gallant wanted to go on record as saying he rarely, if ever, sees our apparatus responding to a scene in an unsafe manner or at an excessive speed. The Chief appreciated his comment and assured him that he would pass it along to the personnel.

Comm. Gallant presented MS forms from State DRA for the Commission's signatures.

Chief Carrier asked if June 7th at 1800 hrs would be acceptable for the next meeting. Everyone agreed that it was. We were planning to go back to the first Thursday of each month, however, the chief will be away at training during the first week of June.

Comm. Sleeper made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Comm. Harbour. The vote to adjourn was unanimous at 1926 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Stephen M. Carrier
For Clerk Janine Vary