

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

Fire Station 1
September 9, 2015

Portsmouth, NH
1900 hours

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Richard Gamester called the meeting to order at 1900 hours and led a moment of silence for fallen firefighters of 911 followed by the pledge of allegiance. Along with Chairman Gamester, present were: Commissioners: Michael Hughes and Jennifer Matthes; Chief Steven Achilles; Deputy Fire Chiefs: Carl Roediger and James Heinz; Captain Michael Hogan and Firefighters: Russell Osgood, Stephen Gallagher, Mark Herrholz, Ezekiel Tappin, Allan Scholtz, John Goodwin, and Scott D. Young.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

After making a couple of minor corrections, a motion was made to approve the minutes of August 12, 2015, by Commissioner Matthes, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

III. Public Comment Session: None

IV. Recognition of Groups or Individuals:

Chief Achilles noted Firefighter Paul Trivigno's intent to retire within the next 3-years. He went on to recognize the hard work from department personnel who battled the fire on Brewster Street. With the timely attack, the fire was kept to a first alarm and had the potential of being a lot worse.

V. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Chief Achilles reviewed reports with the Commission.
Report (065), 2015 Response Report with Service Activity and Safety message for August. The report shows the department responding to 108 Fire Calls and 327 Ambulance Calls for the month. To date, the department has responded to 993 fire and related service calls and 2194 ambulance service calls. The Safety Message section provided tips for back to school pedestrian safety. The Service Activity and Safety Message report was submitted to the Portsmouth Herald for publication in local newspapers. Report (066), Fire and EMS Calls by District, identifies the number of calls broken down by districts for the month with district 1 having the highest call volume followed

by district 2 and 3 being closely matched. EMS data shows the top three reasons for dispatch this month were motor vehicle crashes, falls and chest pain. There were 8 reported overdoses this month. Report (067), FY16 Budget, Chief noted being two months into the new fiscal year and still tracking positively. He made note of an increase in vehicle maintenance budget line which is a result of two accidents involving department apparatus. A2 sustained about \$30K of damage and still unsure if the stretcher and stair chair (est. at \$22K replacement costs) will be covered by insurance. T5 received minor damage. E6 is out for repairs to corroded frame rails and A3 has some electrical problems. Report (068), Overtime Analysis, provided a breakdown of how overtime was used in August along with a summary of what was charged to OT-Recall for the month.

Motion, to approve Chief's Reports 15-065 through 15-068, was made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.

B. Staff Reports:

Deputy Roediger reported a busy month in Prevention. Southgate Plaza owners succeeded in replacing fire alarm system with a new one throughout the plaza. New space, Petco, will be installing an online pump system that will handle the entire plaza. Plans of erecting a 6-story residential unit in/or around the Big Lots site is still in the works. Projects on Islington Street and Vaughn Street are working on sprinkler designs. 1900 Lafayette Road (new Atlantic Orthopedics) continues to move forward. Inspector Howe busy with apartment buildings and their compliancy with the State's smoke and CO detector regulations. Currently, of the ones he has seen, 4% are moderately compliant. Letters will be going out to owners making them aware of the regulations. Press Room inspection done and they are now in compliance. Investigation of Brewster Street fire continues. Building was unoccupied at the time with no utilities. Fire alarm box up the street, a block away, also activated 10-minutes prior to this fire.

Deputy Chief Heinz reported on operations and trainings happening within the department noting meetings with US Air Force regarding Haven Well and Ken Miller of Electric Light for an Opticom plan. Training at a home located on New Castle Avenue owned by Kevin Semprini. Many thanks to Kevin for allowing us to use the home. Probationary firefighters undergoing major water training and Paramedic and AEMT refresher season is upon us.

VI. Old Business:

Chief Achilles spoke further about Haven Well. He and Deputy Heinz, along with City officials and parents of children who attend a daycare center on Pease, attended a meeting with Air Force representatives to discuss results and to learn more about what they plan to do. Air Force states their issue is with EPA. The findings are dependent on science they state, and are working with CDC to

provide more definitive information. Similar product was found near the 3M plant in Minnesota a few years ago. Department personnel are filing workers comp paperwork to City's insurance carrier, Primex. If department personnel are concerned with their levels, or have questions, they are being encouraged to see their own physician to review results and develop a plan. No one has recommended any long term testing right now. Coordinating meetings with Human Resources and Primex on how to handle matters should something come up 5-, 10-, 15-years down the road.

Commissioner Mattes inquired further about the reasons behind the claims being denied. Chief stated he is trying to find out more about the timeline and how long a claim is active once denied and if one needs to resubmit a claim or appeal denial. Ff. Osgood stated one has 18 months to appeal denial. He went on to add that it happened while one was at work and yet no one is willing to admit that and 10-years from now, who knows what will happen. Can become costly if one needs to hire an attorney. He said that the IAFF has received the information as well. Hughes inquired about the information getting to those members who have retired or left employment that may have worked out at Pease. Deputy Heinz noted that letters were sent out and calls were made and believes they have all been contacted at this point. Chief Achilles stated he would continue to provide information as it is known.

VII. Presentations of Written Communications: None.

VIII. New Business:

Chief Achilles spoke briefly about bathroom renovations happening at station 1. DPW is helping us out with this project and hopes to have it done by the end of the week.

Ambulance 2 will be out of service for approximately 6-8 weeks for repairs.

In following up on the new engine purchase, Chief noted several demonstrator models were reviewed by the committee with one meeting our specifications. Approval of bond done and will continue to move forward with this purchase.

Engine 6 frame rails are corroded and is currently at Greenwood being replaced. Cab of this unit will also be repainted while in shop to help it last another 5-6 years.

Station 3 has been measured out using same footprint and currently working on figuring out need assessments. Again, just starting with one contractor to get an idea of cost so we have a starting point to work from. Would need to go out to bid if project was to move forward and accepted.

City Council voted to adopt Whistleblower Policy.

Chief Achilles stated he would be attending the accreditation workshop training in North Carolina next week.

Chief Achilles had Firefighter Osgood speak about the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial. The Memorial was founded in 1986 and is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It recognizes and honors past and future professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel who were killed in the line of duty and provides assistance to the surviving spouses and children of those members. Each September, the IAFF conducts a solemn ceremonial service at the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial and Wall of Honor and this year former firefighters Sarah Fox and Jeffrey Bokum will be recognized and honored. He, along with family members of Sarah and Jeff, 5 other members from our department and Deputy Roediger will be attending the ceremony on the 19th.

Chief Achilles noted 9/11 service at City Hall on Friday.

IX. Public Hearings: None

X. Non-public Session:

Motion, to enter into Non-public Session at 1945 hours for RSA 91-A:3, II (a), made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Matthes, unanimous.

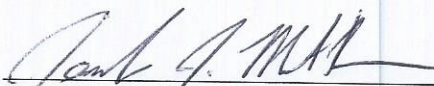
Motion, to come out of Non-public Session and return to public meeting at 1955 hours was made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Matthes, unanimous.

Regular public meeting reconvened at 1955 hours.

Chairman Gamester made the vote to approve the tentative working agreements for both the Portsmouth Professional Fire Officers Association, Local 4039 and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 1313. Vote passes 3-0.

XI. Adjournment:

Motion, to adjourn at 1956 hours, made by Chairman Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Hughes, unanimous.


Jennifer Matthes, Clerk