

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

Station 1
October 29, 2003

Portsmouth, NH
1900 hours

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 1900 hours with Chief LeClaire leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Along with Chairman Hughes and Chief LeClaire, present were Commissioners Gamester and Wentworth; Deputy Chief Achilles; Acting Deputy Chief Griswold; Lt. Cleary; and Firefighters: Germain, Herrholz, McQuillen and O'Brien.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion to accept the minutes of September 17, 2003 made by Chairman Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

III. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Motion made to accept Chief's Reports 03-047 through 03-051 by Chairman Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

B. Other: None.

IV. Old Business: None.

V. Presentations of Written Communications: None.

VI. New Business:

Commission welcomed in Firefighter James O'Brien. Ff. O'Brien began his tour on September 22, 2003.

Chief LeClaire led the discussion of promoting Acting Deputy Steve Griswold to the open position of Deputy Fire Chief, Lieutenant Ken Smith to the position of Captain and Firefighter Rick Murphy to Lieutenant. Chief LeClaire recommended the Commission make it effective today. According to the City Charter, the Fire Commission has the authority to appoint such permanent Firefighters, Lieutenants, Captains, Deputy Chiefs and a Fire Chief. However, without "final" approval from City Council regarding the contracts of the Assistant and Deputy

Minutes from October 29, 2003 continued:

Fire Chiefs, Chairman Hughes, in his opinion, felt it was best to wait until after the City Council's meeting of November 17, 2003 to accept the promotions. Although there is strong belief that the contracts will be approved and accepted on November 17th, there is still uncertainty. Commissioner Gamester asked the Chief if Smith and Murphy could be made Acting Captain and Acting Lieutenant. Chief replied there wasn't a need for "acting".

Commissioner Gamester made the motion to promote Acting Deputy Chief Steve Griswold to the open position of Deputy Chief, Lieutenant Ken Smith to the position of Captain and Firefighter Rick Murphy to Lieutenant effective November 18, 2003. Seconded by Commissioner Wentworth. Vote taken: 2-1, motion passed.

VII. Recognition of Groups of Individuals:

Local 1313 and PPFOA 4039 went into mediation on October 9, 2003. After lengthy discussions, a tentative agreement has been met with each contract. Contracts are currently being typed.

Mediation costs will be divided in half, as done in previous years, with half of the costs being paid by the local bargaining units and half being paid by the Fire Department.

Motion made by Chairman Hughes to have the Fire Department's portion of mediation costs taken out of the *Administration Professional Services/Outside Counsel* account of the FY04 departmental budget. Seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

VIII. Public Hearings: None.

IX. Non-public Session:

Motion made by Chairman Hughes to enter into non-public session at 1923 hours, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

Motion to come out of non-public session at 1945 hours, with no votes taken, made by Chairman Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

X. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 1947 hours made by Chairman Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

Richard Gamester, Clerk