

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

Station 1
June 22, 2004

Portsmouth, NH
1700 hours

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 1702 hours with Chief LeClaire leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Along with Chairman Hughes and Chief LeClaire, present were Commissioners: Gamester and Wentworth; Assistant Chief Achilles, Portsmouth Herald and Foster's Daily Democrat.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion to accept the minutes of May 20, 2004 made by Commissioner Wentworth, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

III. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Motion made to accept Chief's Reports 04-034 through 04-038 made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

B. Other (to included internal dept. written communications): None.

IV. Old Business:

FY04 Budget, projecting to come in under budget at this time. Overtime for the period June 22 – 30, which is entered with the first payroll of FY05, will be charged back to FY04. Mechanics and fire alarm personnel working only in emergency situations. Watching all accounts closely.

V. Presentations of Written Communications: None.

VI. New Business:

FY05 Budget presentation/work session with City Council is at 1830 hours tonight. Currently budget meets with City Manager's recommendation of 9%. City Council looking at an additional ½% to 1% reduction from City Manager's recommendation. Chief LeClaire explained that a ½% reduction is approx. \$27K which would reduce the number of hours our part-time personnel would work (called in on emergency repairs only). A 1% reduction is approximately \$55K and that would effect our overtime accounts, which was already reduced to meet the City Manager's recommendation of 9%. Shift coverage of 13 day / 14 night

Minutes from June 22, 2004 Continued:

would be jeopardized. City Council requesting no increase in tax rate. Chief noted two options being proposed by City Manager:

City Manager's Option A, with a proposed increase in parking fees and reduction in Capital, along with a ½% reduction in City's operating budget, would have the tax rate at 7 cents below last year's rate.

City Manager's Option B, with the same increase in revenue and decrease in Capital, and a 1% reduction in the City's operating budget, would have the tax rate at 17 cents below last year's rate.

After a brief discussion, Fire Commissioners recommend no more than a ½% reduction.

VII. Recognition of Groups of Individuals: None.

VIII. Public Hearings: None.

IX. Non-public Session:

Motion to enter into Non-public Session made by Chairman Hughes at 1735 hours, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

Motion to come out of Non-public Session, with no votes taken, made by Chairman Hughes at 1750 hours, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

X. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 1753 hours made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

Richard Gamester, Clerk