

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

Station 1
January 18, 2006

Portsmouth, NH
1900 hours

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Michael Hughes called the meeting to order at 1900 hours and led Pledge of Allegiance. Along with Chairman Hughes, present were Commissioners: Richard Gamester and Paul Wentworth, Chief Christopher LeClaire, Assistant Chief Steven Achilles, Captain Val Pamboukes, Firefighters: William McQuillen and Brian Ryll and Secretary Peg Niland.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to accept the minutes of November 30, 2005, made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

III. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Motion, to accept Chief's Reports 06-002 through 06-006, made by Commissioner Wentworth, seconded by Chairman Hughes, unanimous.

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

IV. Old Business: None.

V. Presentations of Written Communications:

Motion, to accept and place thank you letter from Mr. Hogan on file, made by Chairman Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

VI. New Business:

Assistant Chief Achilles led brief discussion regarding Emergency Medical Service Rates for 2006. Rates are consistent with previous year increases and rates regional wide.

Motion, to approve Emergency Medical Service Rates for 2006 as established by City Manager John Bohenko, made by Chairman Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

Minutes from January 18, 2006 continued:

FY07 CPI set at 3.26 % tied with contract rates. Commissioner Wentworth spoke about the Joint Budget Committee meeting held this morning. City Manger identified four fixed cost line items that will be showing significant increases: wages, retirement, health insurance and workers compensation. City Manager also commented on utilities (Electric, Natural Gas and Fuel) and the Department of Energy's expected increases over the course of this year and next. City Manager stated that, unless there is a reduction in staffing levels, the JBC and City Council would see FY2007 budgets with approximately a 7% increase over FY2006 budgets. Some council members wanted to set a "cap" on budget increases however, after brief discussion, it was decided that each department would be able to present their budgets and outline the needs of the department.

Chief LeClaire noted the Public Hearing date on the department's FY2007 proposed budget is scheduled for February 8, 2006. Department is looking at increasing the Fire Prevention office to a two-person office as it was a few years ago along with bringing the firefighter staffing levels to 15. Training for Boat Operator of a 28' or larger vessel, is in the planning stages. Received the new gear extractor and it has been installed in the basement at Central Station. Another set for station 3 has been removed from CIP and will be added to the new fire station plans. The heavy rescue vehicle was moved from FY2007 to FY2010 CIP. The adoption of the CIP by planning board is scheduled for tomorrow, January 19th. Boat RFP approved by Legal department. New fire truck is expected to arrive sometime during the summer.

Chief informed the Commission that the City's Overtime Audit is continuing to move forward.

Assistant Chief Achilles introduced new firefighter, Brian Ryll.
Chief LeClaire introduced new part-time secretary, Peg Niland.

VII. Recognition of Groups or Individuals:

Firefighter May resigned January 1, 2006 to pursue other interests.

VIII. Public Hearings: None.

IX. Non-public Session:

Motion, to enter into Non-public Session at 1930 hours, made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Chairman Hughes, unanimous.

Minutes from January 18, 2006 continued:

Motion to come out of Non-public Session at 2000 hours, with no votes taken, made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

X. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 2003 hours made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

Richard Gamester, Clerk