

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

Station 1
August 24, 2006

Portsmouth, NH
1900 hours

I. Call to Order:

Commissioner Gamester called the meeting to order at 1906 hours and led Pledge of Allegiance. Along with Commissioner Gamester, present were Commissioner Wentworth; Chief LeClaire; Captain Marvin and Firefighter Chouinard.
Absent: Commissioner Hughes; Assistant Chief Achilles and Deputy Chief Griswold.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion, to accept the minutes of July 19, 2006, made by Commissioner Wentworth, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimous.

III. Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Reports:

Motion, to accept Chief's Reports 06-057 through 06-061, made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

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

IV. Old Business:

Chief LeClaire commented on the FY06 Budget stating surplus of approximately \$48K and the approval by City Manager for monies to be held over for training and equipment purchases of \$38K. Fire Department will return approximately \$10K back to the City.

FY07 Budget – is underway and no problems thus far.

Engine 3 – in service.

Marine 1 – completion date moved to sometime in October due to backorder of engines.

Ambulance 3 – specifications are done and will be out to bid shortly.

V. Presentations of Written Communications:

Chief LeClaire read thank you letter from Strawberry Banke Museum President Lawrence Yerdon.

Minutes from August 24, 2006 Continued:

Motion, to accept and place on file Strawberry Banke Museum's thank you letter, made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimous.

Chief LeClaire read letter from Esperian Family whose son perished in the Middle Street Fire. The Family has given the department a generous donation of \$500 to which, the department requests it be used towards the costs of the new Firefighter monument that will stand outside Station 1.

Motion, to accept Esperian donation and apply the funds towards the cost of the new Firefighter monument, made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimously.

VI. New Business:

Chief LeClaire noted the retirement of Firefighter Mark Bettencourt, effective September 1, 2006.

Firefighter Oral Boards were conducted Wednesday, August 23rd. Recommendations of 2 candidates will be forthcoming.

He also spoke of the Part time Account Clerk interviews held on Monday, August 21st. Four candidates, one suited magnificently. Offer being made to Becky Wooley. Hope to have her on board shortly.

Chief LeClaire spoke of his invitation by Homeland Security & Emergency Management Director Christopher Pope, to join him and other selected State officials, on Sunday, September 10th at a ceremony in New York that will pay tribute to America's first responders. Ceremony will also honor the heroes of September 11th.

After brief discussion, motion to elect new Commission Officers, effective September 1, 2006, made by Commissioner Wentworth, seconded by Commissioner Gamester, unanimously.

Motion to elect Commissioner Paul Wentworth as Chairman, Commissioner Richard Gamester as Vice Chairman and Commissioner Michael Hughes as Clerk effective September 1, 2006, made by Commissioner Gamester, seconded by Commissioner Wentworth, unanimously.

Minutes from August 24, 2006 Continued:

VII. Recognition of Groups or Individuals: None.

VIII. Public Hearings: None.

IX. Non-public Session: None.

X. Adjournment:

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

Richard Gamester, Clerk