

Special Meeting of the
Board of TFD Fire Commissioners

DRAFT -- Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2019
Thompsonville Fire Station, 35 N. Main Street, Enfield, CT

1. Call to Order: by Comm. DuFour at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call: present was Comm. Perry, Comm. DuFour, and Comm. Dodd. Absent was Comm. Reidy and Comm. Crowley. Also present was Interim Chief Deskis.

3. Fire Chief's Report:

Interim Chief Deskis said our Administrative Assistant has been out for the past couple of weeks. She has a doctor's appointment on Friday to see if she is okay to come back to work. She has been helping me with a few things by phone calls and emails. She wanted to thank the members for the phone calls and sending her flowers.

Interim Chief Deskis said there was a Hazmat incident on Spring Street that was covered on the news. There was also a fire at 115 Elm Street that our members responded to very quickly. Our quick response time prevents the fires from becoming a big problem.

Interim Chief Deskis said the department was awarded a public fire prevention grant from FM Global to purchase iPads. We should receive the grant money soon.

Interim Chief Deskis said he has been working on the next fiscal year's budget and would like to meet with the Board to discuss it.

Interim Chief Deskis said Comm. Crowley had asked about a plaque for the building at a few meetings ago. I have contacted a company in Michigan and the plaques are expensive. I would also like to create a monument and a plaque for the bell.

Interim Chief Deskis said the members have been participating in a mentor program at Henry Barnard Elementary School. They have been having lunch with the students every Friday for the past couple of weeks.

Interim Chief Deskis said he has looked at all the past chiefs' photos that are at the station. Captain Ellis can identify the names of the chiefs. Some of the photos are really big and might be difficult to hang on the wall. Comm. Dodd suggested seeing if

the photos can be reduced at Staples. Comm. Perry said we would need to buy frames for them. Comm. DuFour said he just wants to hang the portraits up. Comm. Perry said the portraits should state the person's name and the years they were Fire Chief.

Interim Chief Deskis said he is working on a 5-year plan for the department. Those goals can be discussed during budget meetings.

Interim Chief Deskis said he and Captain Ellis will be holding CPR classes for the residents. The only cost would be to purchase a certification card.

Interim Chief Deskis said the department is going to push for a strong inspection program. It is difficult to get in contact with landlords because most of them don't live in the area. Comm. DuFour suggested contacting the Housing Authority.

Comm. Crowley arrived at 6:08 pm

Interim Chief Deskis said Beirne Wealth Consultants has requested a full redemption of all assets from Prudential. Comm. DuFour said we can discuss it under agenda item 7 a.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Comm. Dodd said there is no Treasurer's report due to Kellie being out.

5. Public Communications:

None.

6. Commissioners' Communications:

None.

7. Old Business: a) Pension, b) Boundary Dispute:

Pension: Comm. DuFour said we must contact Prudential and terminate the pension plan with them. Comm. DuFour read an email from Lindsey Allard, consultant at Beirne Wealth, listing the next steps in switching pension companies. Comm. Dodd said we can cancel our plan during the conference call with Prudential and Beirne Wealth. Comm. Perry said Beirne Wealth has offered to set up the conference call. We should have them handle as much as they can because the company is excellent at what they do.

Comm. Dodd asked where we stand with Beirne Wealth. Interim Chief Deskis said Beirne Wealth is just waiting to initiate the transfer of the money. Comm. DuFour said all the payments are still being issued from Prudential.

Boundary Dispute: Comm. Perry said she spoke with Attorney Landolina. He said there is no legal record saying the district owned it. If we send a letter to Hazardville, then we are acknowledging there was a dispute. If someone were to get injured on the property our district could be liable. The attorney said to leave it alone.

8. New Business: a) Possible Action of Chief's Appointment, b) Chief's Search Committee Recommendation, c) Chief's Contract:

MOTION to move agenda item #8 b before agenda item # 8 a made by Comm. Perry, seconded by Comm. DuFour. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

Chief's Search Committee Recommendation: Comm. DuFour said the Search Committee interviewed 7 candidates. Of those 7 candidates, the Search Committee recommended Interim Chief Deskis to be appointed as Fire Chief.

Possible Action of Chief's Appointment:

MOTION that the Board appoints Interim Chief David Deskis to the position of permanent Fire Chief of the Thompsonville Fire Department pending a background check and department physical made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Dodd. Discussion: Comm. DuFour thanked all the candidates for applying and attending interviews. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

Comm. Perry said we need to amend the motion to include the Chief's Contract. His contract must be signed before we can appoint him.

AMENDED MOTION that the Boards appoint Interim Chief David Deskis to the position of permanent Fire Chief of the Thompsonville Fire Department pending a background check, department physical, and mutual agreement of contract made by Comm. Perry, seconded by Comm. Crowley. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0.

Chief's Contract: Comm. DuFour said the Board needs to meet and present Chief Deskis with the contract. Comm. Dodd asked does the Board come up with a contract proposal and present it to him. Comm. Crowley said there is an outline for the contract. The next step is to cross the t's and dot the i's and get the contract signed. Comm. Dodd asked do we have to wait for the physical and the background check before we can do this. Comm. Crowley said we should run the contract by our labor attorney first. I believe he can sign it. Pending the background check and physical, it becomes

official. Comm. DuFour said the Board will have to set a date to discuss the contract. The Board discussed meeting dates.

Comm. Dodd said the contract is similar to the previous chief's with a few changes. The salary is in the same range for the position. We have included health benefits, but he has declined them. He can make contributions to the retirement plan. His clothing allowance is a little bit less than what it was before. The big change with this contract is the time off. He will have 28 paid days off. He will not accumulate time during the year. He will have the standard holidays off. Unused time cannot be carried over and will be paid out at the end of the year. He will work 40 hours instead of 42 because that is what he is working now. Comm. DuFour said he will forward the changes to the attorney.

9. Approval of Minutes from January 24 regular meeting:

Comm. DuFour said we don't have a quorum to approve them. Comm. Crowley said if you read the minutes, then you can approve them. The Board agreed to table the minutes.

10. Discussion and Approval of Invoices/Bills:

Commissioners reviewed, discussed and approved checks for invoices/bills.

11. Executive Session: a) Retired FF. Thomas Brocuglio H&H Stipulation Agreement 927, b) Possible Litigation in Regard to Retired FF. Thomas Brocuglio:

MOTION to enter Executive Session made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Dodd. Discussion: none. Roll Call- Motion passed 4-0. All Commissioners present entered Executive Session at 6:31 pm.

Returned from Executive Session at 6:34 pm.

12. Possible Action regarding Executive Session:

No action taken.

13. Adjourn:

MOTION to adjourn made by Comm. DuFour, seconded by Comm. Crowley. All in favor by ayes at 6:35 pm.