Fire Service Coordination Committee Meeting

March 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

***Attendees:*** Commissioner Douglas Benedetto, Commissioner Battles, Burrville - Jay Andrews, Torringford - Jim Newkirk, Drakeville - Mike Maccalous, Phil Kozlak, Mark Hilpert Local 1567, Chief Brunoli Torrington, Deputy Chief Pepler Torrington, Burrville - Dennis Andrews.

**Minutes Approved:**

Mike Maccalous made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2013 meeting and Dennis Andrews seconded the motion.

**Apparatus Plan:**

Chief Brunoli discussed the apparatus plan, and at this point Ladder 2 will be pushed out a few years.

**Policies:**

We are currently working on policies and prioritizing them as we speak. Upon completing them, we will bring back for training all citywide firefighters on them.

**Training:**

There was no report on training.

**Equipment Account Balance:**

Jim Newkirk reported that there is $19,669.63 in the account.

**Strategic Plan:**

Chief Brunoli discussed the strategic plan and will be giving a report to the Board. After meeting with each department, there was little interest in the Chief’s intern program.

The goal for training is to implement the Torrington Fire Department Recruit program and design it around the Torrington volunteer fire service’s schedule. At this point in time, we are optimistic that we can implement it by July 1, 2013.

Chief Brunoli said he has had several meetings with the Mayor, and has put $38,000 into his proposed ‘13-‘14 budget for volunteer firefighting equipment.

**Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence received

**Comments from the Public:**

None

**Comments from members:**

**Drakeville:**

Mike Maccalous stated that he is likely going to lose a member which will put him in rough shape. At this time he currently has 5 Black helmet firefighters.

Mike also asked, if he could roll the Tanker with one person? It was decided that they could, as this was a specialty piece.

Dave Maccalous is working on a water supply plan for UCONN Branch.

**Torringford:**

Jim Newkirk said he has 10 Black Helmets currently. He asked how Torringford was dispatched to Simmons Street as it outside of their area. He then stated that he had no problem with going, but he was unsure as to their district.

Jim Newkirk also asked why the Torrington Fire Department held the Griswold Street critique at 3:00 PM. DC Pepler responded that it was a time issue, and an effort was made to bring the personnel together from both shifts near shift change.

**Burrville:**

Jay Andrews stated that he has 5 Black Helmets and has three potential members. He asked about a 2Q class and DC Pepler said he would look into that option, however, it is a time investment and people must be serious.

Dennis Andrews said he had nothing to report.

**Board of Safety Commissioners**

* Commissioner Battle has nothing to report
* Commissioner Benedetto was looking for feedback from committee members about the Chief’s Plan. Overall there is interest, while at the same time skepticism from all parties. Chief Brunoli followed up with the initial concepts for training, stating that we would like to implement the Torrington Fire Department recruit training program.

A question was raised as to budgeting; the question was if the City was to purchase equipment for the volunteer fire service, would the City request the equipment back? Chief Brunoli said that would not be the case, the equipment would be theirs.

Chief Brunoli talked about the Captains of the Torrington Fire Department serving as Liaisons to each of the volunteer fire companies. He said he is optimistic that this will improve communications between the career department and volunteer firefighters.

Jim Newkirk asked about the union’s feelings about the plan, as his members have anxiety and Chief Brunoli replied that there is anxiety, but he feels that the Board is supportive of his plan and thinks everyone will be at ease eventually.

Mike Maccalous said he and the members of the Drakeville Fire Department are open minded to the plan.

* Commisioner Potter asked the group why there was little interest in the program. The overall reply was the significant commitment to time. Overall, he hopes that we can hire people from the volunteer ranks, in which they will be more willing to volunteer. The problem identified, was that there is no guarantee that there will be a job offer. Chief Brunoli said there is the potential for other Chiefs to contact him as a reference.
* Deputy Chief Pepler said that he is going to take advantage of the recent fires and make them into learning experiences for all city personnel.
* Mark Hilpert (Local 1567) – The union is still deciding who the representative will be from the union.
* Chief Brunoli
  + Will be away next week
  + There is a lot of movement within the department and we are preparing our next group to take over.
  + If anyone needs anything, please contact the Deputy Chief or me.

There was a motion to adjourn at 7:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Chief Chris Pepler