

**TOWN OF SOMERS
FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 18, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Mr. Lawlor

Members Present:

§ Father Bruno, David Palmer, Alice Van Tasel, Carl Rohrbach,
Chief Bill Meier, Fire Marshal Walt Summers

Fire Chief:

- A first check has been issued for approx. \$108,000 to pay for the chassis of the new Tanker Truck. The work on the upper body and equipment will begin soon. Delivery is still expected for the fall.
- The 2006-2007 Budget was passed. We are looking forward to begin the acquisition of the “Service Truck” and the Hertz Equipment, which were approved in the budget, as soon as possible.
- The 2005-2006 budget remains tight primarily because of fuel costs. The BOS has been approving transfers between line items and the chief remains confident that we will reach the end of the budget year within our current budget.
- The School Department owes the Fire Department approx. \$3000

because of “Fire Watch” expenses. New State Law mandates that any school activities (plays, dances etc) that may involve combustible material requires the presence of a “fire-watch”. All contracts for future school building and activities should include a clause regarding Fire Watch.

- We had a serious equipment failure this week. The “radiation fans” on the Rescue Truck failed requiring an expenditure of \$1000.
- We had an additional problem with the boilers in the Fire House recently. WE were forced to expend \$590. to fix the problem. The Chief has met with representative of our service contractor and asked them to develop recommendations and pricing to finally resolve the boiler issues. The chief has asked that these recommendations be associated with some sort of guarantee.
- The Fire Commission was grateful to the staff for the development of the “Quarterly Activity Report”. It included valuable statistics that we will be able to review on a periodic basis to spend trends etc...

FIRE MARSHAL:

- A revised Zoning Ordinance Proposal was distributed by Mr. Summers and discussed by the Commission. The intent of the ordinance is to assure that all new developments have access to water via “city water”, dry wells or cisterns. The focus of the discussion was the appropriate size of the Cisterns that will be required via the ordinance. While the proposed language calls for a minimum of 3000 gallons with final approval required from the Fire Chief. The Deputy Chief sent the Commission a letter recommending that the minimum be raised to 10,000 gallons. The other question, which was discussed, was who would be responsible for upkeep and filling of the proposed cisterns. The FC intends to work closely with the planning department on this proposal. If a satisfactory

compromise cannot be arrived at the FC may propose a Town Ordinance to deal with the need.

- The Fire Marshall distributed a proposal for a “driveway ordinance” for the Commission’s review.
- Concerns were expressed about the “fire lanes” at the High School. Signs being placed by school custodians have been moved and ignored. The Fire Marshal and the State Police will work together during the coming weeks to deal with this problem.
- The Fire Commission approved by unanimous vote the hourly statement submitted by Mr. Sommers.
- The position of Fire Marshal remains unresolved. Now that the new budget has passed we hope to begin discussions with the BOS soon to get the funds and approvals needed to move to a Full time Fire Marshal and a replacement Firefighter.

There was no new business.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20

The next Fire Commission meeting will not be held on June 15th. We have scheduled a Special meeting on June 12th