

Campton-Thornton Fire Commission Meeting December 13, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Morel at 1600 hours. Commission members present were Dan Morel, Niles Downing, Jim Demeritt, Todd Baldwin. Others present were Chief David Tobine, Deputy Chief Ian Halm, Campton Town Administrator Ann Marie Foote, Thornton Town Administrator Tammy Beaulieu, Fire Department secretary Julie O'Neil, Firefighters Josh Fitz and Kristy Tobine.

The minutes of the November 8, 2010 meeting were read and unanimously approved as read.

At 1605, discussion of the 2011 budget commenced. Jim read a letter from the Thornton Selectmen regarding their request for level funding, no pay increases, and that the firefighters pay 7% of their health insurance for the ensuing fiscal period. This rate would increase to 10% in 2012 and then 15% in 2013.

Next, Chief Tobine expressed his concern that there is no pay scale for the position of Fire Chief. He feels that there needs to be a range in place and that the Commissioners should research scales from comparable communities. He pointed out that his department provides service to well over 5000 residents between the three towns.

The Employee insurance benefit was discussed. The need to include disability and life insurance as stated in the benefit package would only cost \$1500 for 5 employees. There was discussion of allowing employees to accumulate up to 30 days of sick leave instead of 15 to assist the employee during a long term illness or injury.

Chief Tobine spoke on behalf of his staff. They have recently been hearing rumors regarding the terms of employment such as pay and insurance and overtime and such as the nature of rumors is seldom positive, the employees were concerned enough to be present at this meeting to learn what transpired at the "work session" between the selectmen of Thornton and Campton recently. Commission Chair Morel also spoke on the matter of the select boards meeting to discuss the Fire department budget without notifying or inviting the Commissioners. He then went on to present his views of what amounts to cutting Employees wages by freezing them but requiring them to pay 7% of their health insurance.

Jim Demeritt voiced his opinion that other employees are required to pay a percentage of their health insurance and the fire department needs to also. Times are hard.

Niles voiced his opinion that it is in the interest of the towns served to treat their employees with the respect that expresses that the citizens are interested in maintaining the best possible service. It has been his experience that once the town government is perceived as anti employee, that morale problems arise and dependability falters.

Commissioner Baldwin Brought up the issue of his position on the Fire Commission. He has been contacted by the Thornton Board of Selectmen to be present at their next meeting to advise them if he is still interested in being on the Commission since, according to the minutes of their

last meeting, they were informed that he has missed several meetings this summer and that Thornton wasn't getting the proper representation on the Commission.

The Annual Budget Meeting between the Boards of Selectmen and the Town departments will be January 11, 2011 at 1830 hours at the Campton Fire Station.

Campton will be starting a Capital Reserve fund and Chief Tobine has provided them with a 10 year plan for the Fire Department.

Jim states that line 4220.04 Special Details needs to have funds in it to cover the cost of the details until the Department is reimbursed for the service. There was discussion that that would increase the bottom line, but it probably can't be helped and is only an expense if the reimbursement isn't forthcoming.

The Commission will be getting pay scales comparing Fire departments from comparable populaces from the LGC for review.

Chief Tobine left for an emergency call around 1800 hrs. and Deputy Chief Ian Halm resumed in his place. The budget session with the Town Administrators concluded about the same time.

Two hardship applications were reviewed and a motion was made by Dan to grant the request for ambulance service bill abatement for Run number 09417 in the amount of \$1,093.00 and Run number 10400 in the amount of \$578.15. Motion was seconded by Jim and approved unanimously.

Dan discussed the need for the Commission to discover more of what the legal role of the board is. A decision was made to have a work session regarding the budget and any other old business that needs review. Dan will set a date and time and have it posted.

Ambulance income from November: \$8662.38 minus returned check 641.68 and Collections fee of 33.34 = \$7987.36 minus Comstar fee 718.86 and Bank fee 10.00= \$7291.84. Totals disbursed to towns= Campton 4229.27, Thornton 2770.90, Ellsworth 291.67.

As the hour was late and no other business was presented, Dan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Todd and approved unanimously at 1815 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Niles Downing