

Campton-Thornton Fire Commission Meeting Minutes 12-10-08

The regular monthly business meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Morel at 1706 hrs.

Present were: Commissioners Dan Morel, Niles Downing, Dick Giehl, Todd Baldwin, Jim Demeritt.

Fire Dept. reps.: Chief David Tobine, Deputy Chief Ian Halm.

Reading of the minutes from November 12, 2008 were read and approved.

Old business: The new Line Item on the budget 4220.05 for unemployment insurance. Chief Tobine advised us that we would have to commit to a three year contract for the coverage through the State of NH Unemployment Bureau. Fire Dept. treasurer Becky Farnsworth requested that we add this line item to the budget to protect the Department from possible claims. She would like to pay quarterly. Motion made and seconded and the request was approved.

After further research on heating oil prices for the two Campton stations, Dead River Oil Co. offered to furnish oil for the season at .30 over rack price on the day of delivery. That translated into \$2.19 / gallon for that day and they immediately filled the two tanks as soon as the Commission members had been polled by Niles on Nov. 19, 08 and Dead River notified.

Vehicle fuel: Jim Demeritt checked on prices. He called the State for estimates and they recommend we use \$3.00/gal for diesel and \$1.90 /gal. for gasoline for budget purposes.

Jim informed the Commission that the Thornton Budget Committee and the Thornton BOS each want to meet with the Commission to review the budget. No time was agreed upon and it was felt that another meeting may not be necessary after the meeting with the Selectmen, budget committee and Fire Commission on the 16'th of this month. Copies of the proposal will be delivered to them prior to the meeting.

Chief Tobine diligently made cuts in the budget from lines that had been approved at our last meeting which lowered the bottom line. The Commissioners applauded his efforts to keep expenses down and approved the changes.

Chief Tobine was chosen to present the budget to the Selectmen at the meeting 12-16-08 at 1830 hrs at the Campton Station.

Approved copies of Fire Commission meetings were requested to be sent to the BOS of Campton and Thornton each month.

Chief Tobine advised the Commission that the new fire communications radio antenna site on Pegwood Hill is in process now. There is no big tower. The antenna will be atop a utility pole. The antenna on Mt. Tecumseh will be terminated.

Chief Tobine requested that he be able to pursue the purchase of a pre-owned utility vehicle to be used for transporting fire equipment and personnel to and from incidents. The old forestry unit that was previously used for this purpose was retired a while ago. Funds are available in this years budget from line 4220.15. Approximately \$11,000.00. This request was approved with stipulation that if a vehicle was located, he would notify the Commission to obtain approval before purchasing it. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to allow the Chief to search for a suitable vehicle.

At 1800 hrs, Chief Tobine requested that the meeting be non-public to discuss a personnel matter.

1805, the public session resumed.

A question arose as to whether a fire commissioner could legally be on the budget committee and one member was charged with obtaining the answer and will report back next meeting.

Some Audit paperwork which included disclaimers from the Auditing firm were signed by Commission Chairman Morel.

No other business being presented, a motion to adjourn was seconded and passed at 1818 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Niles Downing, Secretary