

## Meeting of the Board of Fire Engineers

November 8, 2000

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Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Members present: Chief Michael S. Trovato  
Warren Alexander  
Joseph Notaro  
Gerard Menangas  
James Roderick Jr.

Others present: Jeff Francis  
Jessica Curtin  
Maxine Notaro  
Rachel White  
Robert White  
James Golden  
Jeff Sturtevant  
Lorne Russell  
Rosemary Henrique  
Justin White  
Lorne Russell  
Tom Steele  
Michael Benjamin

Rachel White expressed her concern as a public citizen over a rumor she had heard regarding two Paramedics. She stated that if the rumor mill was correct there was an incident that occurred and she hoped that the board would rethink what ever the rumor mill maintained that could be leaving the department open for any legal liability. She added that she was concerned for the safety of the public.

### House Reports

#### Engine Company #4

Set of wheel chocks needed. AJ can pick them up at Napa or Cape Cod Truck.

New Foam Nozzle needed. Foam nozzles will be researched thru a catalog.

Application for Junior membership from Joshua Peters.

**Motion:** Menangas motioned to accept Peters as a Junior member of Engine Co. #4; Roderick seconded the motion; All in favor.

#### Rescue

Rescue Squad members voted 11 to 4 to accept Jeffrey Francis as Lieutenant of the Rescue Squad.

**Motion:** Notaro motioned to accept the vote of the rescue squad; Roderick seconded the motion; Notaro in favor;

Roderick, Menangas, Alexander & Trovato opposed.

Notaro asked the Board to consider rescinding the suspension of two members from the Rescue Squad that resulted during a discussion at a Joint Board and Rescue Meeting on November 1, 2000. Notaro added that as far as he was concerned it was uncalled for. Notaro stated that obviously there was a problem and he felt the problem could have been addressed in another manner and resorting to suspensions has resulted in members of rescue considering it an effort to intimidate the body into discussing their problems and their concerns at a meeting. He added that it could very well be a violation of the first amendment, freedom of speech.

Chief Trovato advised Notaro that he disagreed with him. He added that the men had made serious accusations against him that were not true and he had a problem with the idea that because they were Paramedics they could say and do anything they wanted.

Notaro stated that he felt that the suspensions were an extreme method to deal with the situation and he felt that it warranted withdrawing the suspension of the individuals and dealing with the matter in another way.

### **Boards Comments**

Alexander stated that there was clearly a reason for the disciplinary action and that action was taken. He added that it had nothing to do with a grievance or personal matter of the board or the Chief, it had to do with discipline and the position of officer must be respected and a couple of individuals did not and were clearly out of bounds therefore, disciplinary action was taken.

### **Chief's Report**

Contractor John Rice began work on the raising of Station #5. Water has been turned off in the building and Furnace is being stored at the Johnson Street Station.

Dedication Plaque for new rescue vehicle will be ordered from Brotherton Lettering. Cost \$405.00 plus shipping.

**Motion:** Alexander motioned to order the plaque; Roderick seconded the motion; All in favor.

Print of new Engine 195 reviewed by the board. Members of #5 will be asked to attend a meeting to review the plan.

Tom Steele requesting reimbursement for his EMT Training.

**Motion:** Roderick motioned to reimburse Steele for his EMT Training for \$665.00; Menangas seconded the motion; All in favor.

**Amendments to Personnel Rules & Regulations** discussed.

**Motion:** Alexander motioned to accept the 1-2-16 Amendment of the Personnel Rules; Roderick seconded the motion; Notaro abstained, all other board members in favor.

**Motion:** Alexander motioned to accept the 1-2-17 Amendment of the Personnel Rules; Roderick seconded the motion; Notaro abstained, all other board members in favor.

Chapter 7, Grievances, Articles 1 – 4 read by Alexander to the board.

**Motion:** Alexander motioned to accept Chapter 7, Grievances into the Personnel Rules & Regulations, with an amendment to 7-4-1, line 4, change 5 members to remaining members; Roderick seconded the motion; Notaro stated that he felt the other board members should be present. Notaro abstained, all other board members were in favor.

**Motion:** Alexander motioned to accept the amendment to Chapter 13, Radio Regulations of the Personnel Rules & Regulations; Roderick seconded the motion; All in favor.

Driver Education Course will be held on November 28 and December 3, 2000.

### **Adjournment**

Motion: Menangas motioned to adjourn the meeting; Roderick seconded the motion; All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.