

**UNION FIRE DISTRICT OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
131 ASA POND ROAD, WAKEFIELD, R.I.  
FEBRUARY 3, 2013 10:00 AM**

Wardens: Present: Mr. Steere, Mr. Ciccone, Mr. Boisvert, Mr. McClarnon and Mr. Sloan

Chiefs: Chief Perry, Deputy Chiefs Carney, Quinn, Pinch and Collinson

Others: District Clerk

Mr. Steere called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISPATCHING:** Chief Perry then discussed continued problems with dispatch to include lack of consistency by dispatchers. Chief Perry further discussed being recently dispatched to a structure fire at the Village at Worden's Pond. Chief Perry then advised that while responding he requested a second dispatch as no trucks were on the air yet and Dispatch advised that they were unable to dispatch due to updating their computers. Chief Perry then advised that he then called Station 4 and requested they send an engine to the scene. Chief Perry then advised that subsequently Ladder 1 and Deputy Chief Quinn called on the air. Chief Perry then advised that last night he was sent to 4414 Tower Hill Road and was initially sent to the southbound lane and it ended up being on the northbound lane. Discussion ensued regarding dispatch issues, safety concerns and which included meeting with the Kingston Fire District in the near future to discuss these matters of mutual concern.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Chief Perry then advised that the building project at the Station 8 is moving along well and which is appreciated by both station members and the Chiefs. Chief Perry then advised that he would like to have automatic generators installed at the fire stations. Mr. Steere then advised that the plan is to install automatic generators at the stations over the next few years. Discussion continued regarding the need for these generators due to the recent storms and power outages. Discussion included a plan to install these generators over the next few years until all fire stations had automatic generators. Further discussion included cameras and electronic locks at the fire stations. Mr. Steere then advised that electronic locks are being installed at Station 8 and the plan is to review how these electronic locks work prior to implementing the system throughout the District. Discussion continued regarding installing electronic locks at the stations prior to installing video camera systems.

APPARATUS: Chief Perry then advised that the truck committee will be meeting with New England Fire Equipment and Apparatus (NEFEA) on February 11, 2013 and then will be meeting with Minuteman Trucks on February 25, 2013. Chief Perry further advised that truck committee is recommending purchasing two trucks through a lease to purchase option. Discussion ensued regarding potential savings by going out to bid for two new trucks. Mr. Ciccone then advised that immediately following the replacement of the ladder truck the District should consider replacing Engine 10 and Engine 3. Discussion continued regarding concerns involving Engine 18. Deputy Chief Pinch then inquired about the status of the generator being installed on Ladder 1 and was advised that the generator has been ordered from NEFEA after going out the bid.

MANPOWER: Chief Perry then advised that at a recent fire at Mary Carpenter's in Matunuck a couple of months ago there were more Chief's vehicles at the fire than apparatus. Chief Perry further advised that manpower has improved after discussions with the Station Captains. Chief Perry then advised that he was considering recommending switching over from LOSAP to a call pay but would like to keep some of the LOSAP components. Mr. Boisvert then requested that a new program should be put together for further discussion and review by the Board of Wardens. Discussion continued regarding the need for District drivers especially at the Snug Harbor Fire Station. Chief Perry then discussed the need to discuss the Chief's pay and that there is no retirement system for the Chiefs. Chief Perry further advised that he has also spoken with Fire Marshal Emmott and Assistant Fire Marshal Rice and would also include those members along with the Fire Chiefs in the retirement pay or benefit proposal. Chief Perry then advised that some employees received a retirement pay following retirement and would like to see that the retirement benefits be extended for other members as well. Discussion ensued regarding potential retirement plans for those not presently included in the MERS plan. Deputy Chief Pinch requested to look into the software "I Am Responding" and which may help knowing who is responding to the calls for service. Deputy Chief Pinch then requested permission to contact the company for a presentation and which was agreed to. Deputy Chief Pinch further discussed looking into an accountability software program for the I Pad and which costs less than fifty dollars per I Pad.

ORDINANCES: Chief Perry then advised that there is a meeting scheduled with town traffic committee which included Chief Vespia regarding a proposed fire lane parking ordinance on February 21, 2013. Chief Perry further advised that he would like to implement a false alarm ordinance program as the District is responding to residential fire alarms time and time again. Chief Perry then advised that he is going to be working on this false alarm ordinance and then bring the draft ordinance to the Board of Wardens. Chief Perry then discussed a letter that he received from State Fire Marshal Chartier and who had received a letter from South County Hospital (SCH) regarding a request by the SCH to be able to silence the alarms prior to the response by the UFD. Chief Perry further

advised that he along with the State Fire Marshal's Office is not in support of the request by SCH.

BUDGETS: Chief Perry then advised that the Chiefs would like to have input regarding any departmental budget cuts in this year's budget process. Discussion continued regarding monthly reports regarding budget expenditures. Chief Perry then inquired about hiring a cleaning service and was advised there was bi-monthly cleaning service placed in upcoming budget year. Mr. Steere then advised that the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year will be starting this coming Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:35AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Blessing  
District Clerk

Date Amended \_\_\_\_\_

Date Accepted \_\_\_\_\_

I, John P. Blessing, District Clerk, do certify that the attached minutes are a true and accurate copy of the February 3, 2013 Meeting of the Board of Wardens of the Union Fire District and that they have not been amended except as cited above.

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John P. Blessing  
District Clerk