



# ANSONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

253 MAIN STREET  
ANSONIA, CT 06401

RECEIVED FOR FILE

JUN 16 PM 12:29

*Elizabeth S. Lynch*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK

## FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MAY 28, 2014

Commissioner	Joseph Jeanette	Present
Commissioner	Phil Tripp	Present
Commissioner	Pat Henri	Present
Chief	Joe Kingston	Present
1 <sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief	Scott Trembley	Present
2 <sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief	Ed Adamowski	Present
Others Present:		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief	Mike Eheman	Present
4 <sup>th</sup> Asst. Chief	Dan Mudry	Present
Fire Marshal	Ray Tingley	Present
Fire Alarms	Bill Hart	Present
Fire Police	Eileen Ehman	
Co. #1	Captain Tom Furfaro	
Co. #3	Captain Ken Mitchell	
Co. #4	2 <sup>nd</sup> LT. Tony Spigarolo	
Co. #5	Captain Frank Giusto	
Co. #6	2 <sup>nd</sup> LT. Mark Nimons	

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Fire Commission was called to order at 7:00 by Commissioner Jeanette. All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

A roll call was taken and the chair declared a quorum present.

### Public Session

Chairman Jeanette asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission.

- Gene Sharkey addressed the commission informing them that the Fire Museum would be sponsoring a Touch A Truck and Open House at the Museum on Saturday June 28, 2014 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This event will be held in conjunction with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ansonia. He invited everyone to attend and asked the AFD for their support and help in putting on this event.
- Steve Blume addressed the commission stating that he was not in favor of merging any of the fire houses in town. He spoke on the history, heritage and volunteerism of the members of the AFD. He stated that the volunteers deserved the respect of the community for the service they provide. He cautioned the commission that a consolidation could lead to a paid department. (Notes attached to original.)
- Anthony DeLucia agreed with Steve Blume and asked the members of the Commission where they stood on this issue.

Chairman Jeanette asked three more times if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission.

Being none, the chair declared the public session closed.

### Approval of Minutes

A MOTION to accept the minutes from the April 30, 2014 regular meeting of the Ansonia Fire Commission was made by Chief Kingston and seconded by AC Adamowski. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.

### Approval of Bills

A MOTION to pay all bills if found to be correct was made by Chief Kingston and seconded by AC Adamowski. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.

### Correspondence :

AC Edward Adamowski presented a statement from the officers and members of the Eagle Hose indicating that they are not in favor of consolidation of the different companies. (Letter attached to original.)

Robert M Smith of 49 Burke St submitted a letter requesting help with a ramp for his vehicle in order to transport his son who has MD. (Letter is attached to the original.)

### Reports:

#### Company 1                      Fountain Hose

- Pancake breakfast will be held on Sunday June 8.
- E1 will be OOS on June 14 from 1500 to 0600 next AM.

#### Company 3                      Webster Hose

- E3 and S9 will be at Touch a Truck on /29 at BH Care. Units will be in service.
- June 14 is a boot drive and the Beacon Falls parade.
- June 15 will be the Milford 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade.
- Need to get an estimate on repair to back of E3.
- Need 2.5 inch hose.

#### Company 4                      Charters Hose

- Need garbage bags and house supplies.
- Jay Fainer and Tony Spigarolo went to national training school.
- Co 4 will sponsor a speaker from FDNY on October 18.
- Need hose replaced.
- Generator light still going on.
- Foam lights need to be recalibrated and foam evaluated.
- Need nozzles and adapters.

#### Company 5                      Hilltop Hose

- Latch on door not working.
- Request E5 to Bethany parade on June 13 from 1700-2100.

#### Company 6                      Eagle Hose

- When will the roof be repaired?

### Unfinished Business

#### New Business

Mr. Bshara reminded all the companies that the tax abatement is being finalized. He stated that the commission should look at alternatives to the current system. Commissioner Henri asked for suggestions on how to fix the abatement process.

Mr. Bshara also stated the old budget is winding down and the new budget starts July 1.

### Fire Marshal

- The City installed a new Knox Box at DPW.
- Better Packaging has moved into Hershey Building. New keys are in the Knox Box.
- Renaissance Fair will be over three weekends this summer.

#### Alarms

- All set.

#### Training

#### Fire Police

#### FD 5

- Ladder testing company went out of business. Getting quotes from Fail Saafe now.

#### FD 4

- Pump testing went well.
- Hose testing is complete. Lost 7 lengths of 5 inch and some smaller hose.

#### FD 3

- AC Adamowski stated that his position on consolidation is that he is not in favor of it.

#### FD 2

- Bottle testing has begun. Loaners have been exchanged and this process will continue through the summer. Bottles marked with yellow and red mark are newly tested.
- Flow testing will be coming soon. It will take several days to do it.
- There is a small amount in the training budget.
- AC Trembley stated that he did not misrepresent anyone in the AFD. The information he received in March is what he gave out at the Chief's and Officers meeting that month and is the same today.

#### Commissioner Tripp

- Mr. Tripp commented the parade turnout and stated that it was tremendous. Thank you.
- Please come to the public hearing tomorrow and hear what the plan is all about. There is only a concept and the process is exploratory. Nothing is in concrete at this time.

#### Commissioner Henri

- Thank you all for the great turnout at the Memorial Day parade.
- He would like to continue on a recruiting brochure.
- Requests that you all go to the meeting at AHS tomorrow to listen and participate in the process.
- A member of the Charters, Jack Granatie, requested the fire houses fly POW/MIA flags. The American Legion will provide the flags for those that wish to participate.

#### FD 1

- Tax abatement forms due to Rich today.
- Need driver list from Company 3.
- Went to Mayor's office to review plan of PD and AFD to be announced at AHS on 5/29 at 1800 hours. A public Q & A will be provided. Please attend. The concept of Olson Drive was presented to him and the Chief of PD.

#### Commissioner Jeanette

- I do not support the consolidation of the fire houses. Please go to the meeting and voice your opinion.

A general open discussion of the proposed Olson Drive plans followed.

FD4 I would like to go on record that I am against consolidation of the fire houses. I would like to work with the administration on an AFD admin and training facility for Olson Drive.

Comm. Jeanette Other towns have old stations and they work well. We should leave ours as they are.

FD4 I am in favor of leaving the houses as they are now.

FD1 The plan has both bad and good points. It will effect the camaraderie. The houses are in good shape. Maybe we can put the Chief's Office at a new facility with things needed for OSHA like Decon and showers, an Admin area and training.

Commissioner Tripp made a motion to go back to Public Session seconded by Commissioner Henri. All were in favor. Motion Approved.

Anthony DeLucia asked if Better Packages is a Haz Mat site. FM 1 stated no.

Chris Tymniak, the Mayor's Chief of Staff and Corporation Counsel John Marini attended the entire meeting of the Fire Commission to listen to the AFD members and their concerns. They addressed those present.

Chris Tymniak First, the Mayor would like the Memorial Day parade to be bigger and better in the future. The Administration met with the Housing Authority (AHA) on Olson Drive. They are required to give HUD a plan for the property after demolition. A proposal to create a Public Safety facility consisting of Police and Fire was discussed along with mixed use housing.

John Marini I agree with Steve Blume and Anthony Delucia that the AFD members deserve respect. He stated no actions were being taken without 100 % approval of the Fire Commission and the fire houses. The Mayor does not want to close any fire house in town. He wants to propose a plan to HUD that will help the City and get past the law suits being filed against the City. The more the City can use of the 8.5 acres on Olson Drive, the less dense the housing would be. Some of the ideas discussed involved a new Police station, new Fire station, mixed use housing and community center.

Chris Tymniak Unfortunately, the proposal and the details had to be kept discreet because of the pending lawsuits involved in the process. That is why the announcement had to wait until they were settled last week. The Mayor wants the policemen, firemen and commissions involved in the process. It could go a number of ways but you will have input into the process.

Gene Sharkey The problem is that rumors have been swirling since March. People are upset. Rumors run in a vacuum and spread like wildfire.

Chris Tymniak Closing the fire houses is not on the table. If the AFD decides they want to consolidate, great. If not and they want an Admin and Training facility, great. It will be the Firefighters choice. The concepts are up for discussion. No house closings are planned now. The Mayor thinks the concept of AFD in one spot would be great. But if Firefighters do not, then it is your decision. But if a plan does not work out, that will hurt the City in the HUD planning. The agreement with HUD is for a Public Safety Complex.

Tony Spigarolo A component of the firehouse is the family and tradition. He suggests that the administration go to the houses and see for themselves what we are talking about.

Ken Mitchell A fear would be that the AFD will become a bargaining chip with HUD for the plan to be approved.

John Marini The Mayor wants to present a plan that is acceptable to all the players.

Ken Pawlak We are all volunteers. It appears as if AFD has been targeted. I would like to know who has approved the plan for the AFD?

AC Adamowski made a MOTION to adjourn at 8:40 PM, seconded by Chief Kingston. All were in favor. MOTION PASSED.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Bshara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Richard Bshara  
Secretary-Bookkeeper  
Ansonia Fire Department