

**Town of Ridgefield  
Fire Commission Meeting Minutes  
Town Hall Large Conference Room  
June 3, 2009 - 6:30 pm**

**Commissioners Attending:** Rudy Marconi  
Andrew Bodner  
Barbara Manners  
Di Masters  
Joan Plock

**Representing RFD:** Chief Heather Burford  
Assistant Chief Kevin Tappe  
Asst. Emergency Manager Dick Aarons

**Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Rudy Marconi at 6:30**

Chief Burford presented for discussion the following reports:

- Capital Improvement Plan –RFD YTD Update
- Fire Department Operating Budget
- Truck 8 inspection and upgrades; Tanker 12 repairs
- Training Update

Joan Plock Moved that a new agenda item concerning Federal firehouse construction grants be added to the June 3 Fire Commission Agenda. Barbara Manners seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Capital Improvement Update**

Chief Buford reported that the capital programs are on schedule and under budget. Major programs included improvements to the Catoonah Street Fire House women's bath/shower; cistern refurbishment and pager acquisition.

**Operating Budget Savings**

Chief Burford reported that management continues to trim operating expenses and expects to provide \$24,000 in give backs in addition to the \$15,000 previously announced savings.

**Truck 8 and Tanker 12**

Required inspections have been completed on Truck 8. Repairs and updates are minor and will be undertaken in house. Tanker 12 has returned from the Pennsylvania factory where warranty repairs were completed. While the tanker was out of service, mutual aid arrangements were in effect with surrounding communities. No calls required mutual aid tankers during that period.

**Traffic Vests**

All members working in traffic lanes including parking lots will wear yellow warning vests in addition to traditional PPE. The vests are similar to those used by the Fire Police. They are carried in each vehicle for responders. This action complies with new DOT regulations.

### **Terrorism Training**

Chief Tappe has completed chemical terrorism response training including an FBI situation update.

### **Sex Harassment Avoidance Training**

The career staff has requested and will be provided with additional sex harassment avoidance training.

### **Water Supply Task Force and Fire Disaster Training**

Ridgefield will host a regional tanker water supply drill in August as part of a regional effort to improve multi-agency water supply efficiency. Also, Ridgefield will host a State Fire Disaster Plan briefing for area departments on June 22.

### **Triathlon Activities**

Chief Burford reported that the Triathlon activities were the “smoothest yet.” She said career and volunteer responders as well as emergency management and rehab teams participated. Five people were treated for exhaustion or minor injuries. No one was transported to hospitals.

### **Fire House Construction Grant**

Chief Burford requested permission to apply for a Federal Stimulus Fund grant to build a new firehouse. During general discussion, Chief Burford said her understanding was that there was no requirement for local matching funds nor were there restrictions other than the money be used only for the construction of the fire house. Chairman Marconi requested that Chief Burford study the proposal in detail and let the Commissioners know of any obligations “in the small print.”

Joan Plock moved that Chief Burford be permitted to move forward with the grant request pending approval of Chairman Marconi after a final study of the grant wording. Commissioner Manners seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

### **Fund Raising**

In general discussion the Commissioners expressed their displeasure with a recent telephone soliciting campaign conducted by members of the Ridgefield Professional Firefighters Association. At point were public complaints received by several commissioners from citizens who believed the solicitors had misrepresented their relationship to the Ridgefield Fire Department. Chairman Marconi will look into the matter further and explore the possibility of requiring some sort of disclaimer by phone or mail solicitors to assure that there is no implied approval of the Town or the Fire Commission during private fund raising activities.

**Adjournment:** There being no other matters before the Commission, the meeting adjourned by motion, second and unanimous vote at 7:30.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard N. Aarons,  
Assistant Emergency Manager  
Acting Secretary