

**West Ossipee Fire Commissioners**  
**March 7, 2009**  
**Non Public Session**

Commissioners Present: Joseph Goss, Paul Jay

Others Present: Carl Huddleston, President of the West Ossipee Firefighters' Association

Minutes Taken By: Marilyn Bolduc

At 10:50am a motion was made to go into a non public session; passed 2-0.

Carl Huddleston, president of the West Ossipee Firefighters' Association, reported that the association agrees with the recommendations the commission made at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. He presented a letter to the commission signed by the association board. The association has talked with Chief Eldridge and its members; they have reconciled their differences and it will help everyone move forward.

A motion was made to accept the letter and have it placed into the non public minutes of this meeting; passed 2-0.

Deputy Chief Huddleston gave a letter to the commission to recommend Brad Eldridge for the position of fire chief to the West Ossipee Precinct. The commission stated that they will take it under advisement. It shows the commission that the department's vote of no confidence in the chief has changed.

A motion was made to accept the letter of recommendation and have it placed into the non public minutes of this meeting; passed 2-0.

To keep moving forward, there needs to be constant communication between the commission, the chief and the department members. C. Huddleston said things are more positive and the flow of information is much better. Complaints are going through the proper channels and he feels things have gotten better in the last 3-4 months. Many issues are being taken care of within the department framework before it reaches the higher levels. Due to the changes in running the precinct, it is felt that the chief need to take advantage of the training seminars regarding personnel evaluations and discipline.

J. Goss stated since the change from a volunteer department to a pay-per-call department, the department members are now under the management of the commission. As volunteers, they worked under the management of the fire chief. The commission now handles the hire and discharge of department members. All issues have to be documented.

The association has contacted the bank regarding the individuals who are allowed to access its accounts and will make the necessary changes.

C. Huddleston asked to be taken off any precinct accounts. P. Jay said in his capacity as deputy chief, he'd be an authorized signature on the new precinct credit cards.

Chief Eldridge's six month probation will be up by mid-March. J. Goss asked C. Huddleston, if to the best of his knowledge, has the chief violated his probation. C. Huddleston felt, in his opinion, he had not violated probation.

C. Huddleston stated that Chief Eldridge has expressed confidence in him and the rest of the department

to perform their duties as necessary if the chief was unable to attend a call. He said Chief Eldridge has delegated additional duties to him.

Chief Eldridge and C. Huddleston are still sorting all the records. All personnel records they have found are being saved and are secure.

A motion was made to close the non public session at 11:15am; passed 2-0.

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Minutes Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Commissioner Joseph Goss

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Commissioner Henry Ela

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Commission Paul Jay