

(7)

REPORT

FEMA Ad Hoc meeting - August 15, 2006

Hon. Mark D. Boughton
Common Council Members

Chairman Charles Trombetta called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council members Shay Nagarsheth and Fred Visconti and Fire Chief Peter Siecienski.

Mr. Trombetta explained the charge of meeting – the Danbury Fire Department would like to apply for and accept a grant to enhance the City of Danbury's ability to obtain adequate staffing for fire related emergencies. The agency that will be funding this is FEMA and the amount is \$1,242,000.00 with no local match required.

Chief Siecienski explained the action is on an application for a FEMA program called the SAFER program designed to assist communities w/salary and benefits for career fire fighters. This application is about 1 year ahead of our intended use for the funds. Because it is a competitive grant we are not guaranteed that we will get the funding.

Discussion followed with questions about what happens if we get the grant and the money runs out – how will the salaries be funded. Would another fire company be transferred? There was some concern about a past problem with layoffs when grant money ran out.

Chief Siecienski explained the funding would be through the normal budget process as determined by the Common Council. The lay offs were due to arbitration with the ambulance service and not related to a grant. He is against moving any fire company as it would reduce our response time and we would have poorer service.

Mr. Trombetta said the charge of the meeting is to approve the question of whether we are going to request the grant.

Mr. Nagarsheth made a motion that the Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting adopt this resolution as presented. Seconded by Mr. Visconti. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nagarsheth made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Trombetta. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Trombetta, Chairman