

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

MAY 18, 1993

The Committee on Finance meets this day at 5:00 o'clock P.M.,
Committee Room "A", City Clerk's Department, City Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman Dillon, Councilman Glavin and Councilman
Fenton.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Fargnoli and Councilman Igliazzi.

Also present are Stephen Woerner, City Internal Auditor,
Patricia McLaughlin, Deputy City Solicitor, Boyce Spinelli,
Finance Director, Alex Prignano, Deputy Director/Budget Officer,
Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Mancini, Councilman Clarkin, Joe
Lackey, Planning and Development and Claire E. Brooke-Stewart,
Assistant Clerk.

CHIEF ALFRED BERTONCINI - FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Chief, do you want to make an opening
statement or do you want to go right to the letter from Stephen,
the questions?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Right to the questions.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: The first question that Stephen had sent
out to the Chief involves the number of injured firefighters, this
being our major cause of call back and so forth and a major reason
why we added 65 firefighters. Do you want to respond on that?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Right now we have 527 because we are down
12 of the TO of 539 and we have 20 firefighters off injured as of
today and that reflects a 3.7% of the number 527. Two years ago
in 1991 we had 457 firefighters and that was due to 22 vacancies.
At that time we had 45 firefighters off injured and that reflected
9.8% of the 457. In January of 1992 there were 60 people added to
539 and on May 1992, there was an actual Table of Organization of
479 plus 60 which gave us 539 and at that time in January, there
were 30 firefighters off injured and that reflected 6.2% of the
479 so we are down.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: 9% two years ago to 6% last year to like 8%
this year.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Roughly 3.7%.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: If this trend continues by next year you
should be able to come in and say ---.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: 0, 1.

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CHAIRMAN DILLON: Any comments on the type of injuries? Do you attribute to the 4 people per truck?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Absolutely. The injuries have gone down since we have had four people on a truck.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: And you see that as being the direct result.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I say it has been a direct reflection, yes.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: What are the kind of injuries that took place two years ago versus took place then?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Backs, ankle, sprains, breaks, arms, all broken bones, some heart.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I can see a back, what were the causes of the ankle injuries?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: They fall downstairs, they have twisted their ankle, curbing. A lot of that goes on in the street all the time with the hoses in the street, stepping on those. I have done it myself over the years.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: How does having the extra man on the truck effect spraining an ankle if you are coming out of a building?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: You may have three men, you may have one man doing more than one type of job, man the truck ---.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: The broken bones?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Slips, falls.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Of the 20 who are on, out presently, how did they break down? I am not looking for an exact.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I can get that for you.

MR. ----: I would say at least half of them are very short term, two to three weeks types of injuries.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: If you go back prior to 90 and 91, say go back to 87 or something, how many people were out on disability at a time?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I don't know. I can't answer that. I know that at one point, 89 or 90 we had somewhere in the low 90's, mid 90's.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I know during that period.

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CHIEF BERTONCINI: I was in the district then but I never kept track of injuries, only what I had in my own group. If you want that I will get it for you.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Yes, could you. Just maybe 80 through 85, what the range was.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Do you have figures of average age?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: No, probably 10 years, 11 years at the average seniority on the job.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: You mean of injuries or just the average aid?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Age of injury?

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I would say that the average age on the job is probably less than it was three years ago.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: A lot younger than I. If you want the correlation we can probably get that for you.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: I have to leave but I have just one question on the budget concerning the firefighting equipment. I am concerned about why is that in the budget and not on the Master Lease and if it is in the budget, I think, it should be taken out. There is a million dollars. It has not been in the budget for the last three years.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: It has been taken out and put in the Master Lease.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Well it is right here in the budget now.

MR. WOERNER: I think it is just a different line item. I am sure that is just capital lease payment.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I think it was in the budget the last couple of years and we have taken it out and put it in the lease.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: So in other words, whatever equipment the firefighters get, they pay for the Master Lease out of their budget?

MR. WOERNER: Yes. It is just a different line item on that sheet. What they have done in the last five years is almost no equipments from ---- except on the Master Lease so I should have asked Alex directly the question --- the change.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: I would like an answer to that question because if it is on the Master Lease, I think it should be taken

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out.

MR. WOERNER: I am sure those are just four years worth of Master Lease payments on there.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Four years, why would we pay four years?

MR. WOERNER: Because they are five year leases basically. I think Master Lease one may be off the list now but we are paying two, three, four and five.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Please find that out.

MR. WOERNER: I will.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: The next question involves hydrant expense.

MR. WOERNER: Alex could ask this of Romanelli.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I got an answer from Frank. I don't know where you were, the fire department does not own the hydrants and it is a paper transaction, really and we rent the hydrants from the Water Supply Board. The bill this year, because of the PUC increase, what I understand, is \$458,000.00. They have made a payment of \$164,000.00 and there is a balance of \$294,000.00 which they owe.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: It is budget in 94 and less for 93.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Is that because of the two surcharges on at once, it might be.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: The \$293,179 is what we owe and we paid the \$164,000.00.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Item number 3, why was a man in charge of the carpenter shop changed to superintendent and given a \$10,000.00 raise?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: The answer to that is, it started in the previous Administration ----, I requested that the superintendent of the carpenter shop be restored. We had a number of changes coming up in the stations which we could do in-house. We had a qualified, competent and professional carpenter to do it. There are a lot of mandates and I know you don't like to hear that word but there are a lot of mandates from the NFPA 1500. I recommended that if this position was appointed that it would be the rate of a Battalion Chief which it formally was when we had it going back a few years. At some point, I submitted it, I thought that was it and next thing I know Mr. Ronald Johnson was appointed. That is

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all I can tell you. I don't know what the procedure was.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Are you taking the testing of ladders in-house?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Beginning this year we will be.

MR. PRIGNANO: After we buy the equipment.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: How much is the equipment?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Probably in the neighborhood of about \$4,000.00 to be fair. The only ladders we won't be able to test in-house will be aerial ladders because that is too complex. Most times, the ground ladders, because we have so many upwards of maybe 3,500, 3,600 feet that the cost will probably be equal to that or more than the aerial devices.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: What do we pay now to have somebody come in and test them?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: The first time was \$12,000.00. Right now it is around \$8,800.00, I believe.

MR. PRIGNANO: \$8,875.00.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: How much of the \$8,875.00 is for the aerials?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: It is about 450, 490 an aerial.

MR. PRIGNANO: About 50/50 we were talking about. It is probably \$4,400, \$4,000.00.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: It is somewhere between \$450 and \$500 per aerial truck, be it a tower ladder, an aerial ladder.

MR. PRIGNANO: If you buy that equipment to test the other ladders it should be almost paid back in one year. Test the aerials at about \$3,000.00 or \$4,000.00 once a year after that.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: What level of skill do you need to test. You haven't told me it's a bargain yet. If it is the Chief's pay and the person tests ladders, you are better off sending it out, right?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Maybe you are now but I think for the future you won't be. I think it will be much cheaper to do it in-house. In most departments, throughout the country, are doing it in order to save money so we figure, follow suit and do it.

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CHAIRMAN DILLON: Right but what level, do you need to have one person that is in charge of that?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: They will have to go to school. I forget the title of the school. It is for ladder testing. In the long run we are going to save money.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: How much does it cost to test a ladder now?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: It is about \$500.00 for an aerial device.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: But you can't do the aerials anyway.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: We can't no. They go by the foot and last year it was about \$1.20 a foot and this year maybe \$1.35, I think.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: How much does it add up to?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: About \$4,000.00 or \$5,000.00. We have about 3,800 feet of ground ladders on the trucks, total.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: The only question I had is on the position. I understand the person who does the position is a very capable individual. I don't have a particular problem with that. My only concern is, traditionally, educate me on this, was the reason it was at a Battalion Chief's rate or title because it was always someone from within the department?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Yes.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Is this the first time this is an outsider who has done this?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: He is not an outsider. He is a member of the fire department.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: I am sorry. Does he supervise any other individuals?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: The entire carpenter shop.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: How many people in the carpenter shop?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: About 3.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: I am trying to draw a comparison.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: All three are within that division.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: So he supervises just three people.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Including himself, 2 people.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: I am just trying to determine whether that is reasonable or unreasonable compensation for supervisor, compared to ----.

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COUNCILMAN FENTON: What is the responsibility of another Battalion Chief?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Fires.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Yes but you are overseeing 20....

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I think everything is relative, isn't it?

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Yes, that is exactly the point but we are saying the carpenter shop....

CHIEF BERTONCINI: If you had this man's skills and what he is competent of doing and the money he has saved the city.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: There is no question about that. I understand that he is an outstanding person -- construction and a very good worker. I have no quarrels. Take the name aside and look at the position. This is no reflection at all on the individual. I am just concerned. Is it a little unreasonable to put someone, a Battalion Chief is what 50, 48, 49?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: It is about 50. 48 change I think.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: I am just saying, is it unreasonable for someone who just supervises two people to have ----- it makes more sense to be a Captain.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Our Director of Training is a Battalion Chief and he supervises two people. Director of EMS, Emergency Medical Services, he is one in an office.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I am talking about the level. One of the reasons why firefighters are paid well is because it is a dangerous job. I don't know if you can make the same correlation that somebody who is overseeing a fire can, whatever 5 men in some cases, 4 men in some cases, 10 or 12 or more.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Again, nothing to do with the person. I don't know the person. I am just talking about, is that a little bit excessive for that position.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I recommended it on the basis of when we had it that the pay rate be that of a Battalion Chief and that is how it fell. I thought it did. Maybe I was looking at the skills of the person who has to have it. I didn't know at the time that it would be this particular person. There were a number of people it could have been. If you ask my opinion and I am not going to name names but I think this particular person should be getting

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it. That is my opinion.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: What is the difference between a Captain's rate and the Battalion Chief's rate, just out of curiosity.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: It is in the table, \$10,000.00. I have some concerns about where we are going on the disability pension and the number and we heard some very sobering numbers Friday from Mr. Peterson of Buck who is the city's actuary, what the level of the city's contribution is and what the city's expenses are in comparison to other municipalities in Rhode Island and other counties etc., and I am trying to get a sense of, if you go back to ---- a time period and I know you weren't the Chief and you might have even been in the ---- in the time frame of say 1980 - 1985, sort of before the union turmoil and administration turmoil and all that proceeded, as to whether or not at that time, the department was staffed in a manner which was unsafe for firefighters.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I always thought, I was of the opinion that in 1971, the union won in arbitration time and a half, prior to that we had worked for straight time, when that decision was handed down and the union won, the administration started cutting the companies from four to three and as time went on, our injuries increased. There is no question in my mind -----.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: But why didn't other fire departments, either in the state or around similar city's with similar type of structures, with similar amounts of abandoned buildings and similar population see the same type. They went through the same budget problem. They have similar staffing if not lower staffing, in most cases. They have fleets which are similar or older in many cases. Why aren't 90% of their firefighters going out on disability?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I don't know but if you are staying around the state, I don't think there is anyone that compares to Providence in this state.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: We can go Hartford, Worcester, Springfield, New Haven, similar populations, 140,000 to 165,000.

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CHIEF BERTONCINI: I don't have any statistics, I never did. That is the truth. I don't know about Hartford.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: He was saying and we asked him directly and they do consulting for a large number of cities that he has never seen anything like this. He has heard rumors about something like this in California and the last, I guess examinations, was a time period of 85-89 where something like 92 out of 105 firefighters who retired went out on disability pensions which the actuarial assumption looking at all the other cities and towns were across the country and what they base it on for Providence where something like 10 should have gone ----- period of time.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I can't answer that -----.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: 10 a year.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: No, 10 over that period of 100, they based it on about 1 and 10 would go out. On Friday, he said he would expect one or two on an average year to go out for a City of Providence aside with the force and the number of employees.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I thought he had at least the 5 or 6.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Is there something else that we are not doing right? Is it our training?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Six months of training we do. We do more training than other departments. There are a lot of departments in the state where you are hired, and they will tell you what station to show up at tomorrow morning and you start. You can't do that here.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: The only assumption I can make and I am not trying to put you on the spot but you are the Chief, you are the only guy we have and I have said it before, I said it on the Council floor, I think you guys do an excellent job fighting fires, every time I have seen one up in my ward. The only answer is that there is an economic incentive to go out on a disability pension. There is no economic incentive to wait out your term and just go out on a regular standard pension and thus, you know, this guy did it, I should do it, etc. and the pension contribution from the City, according to Buck, their estimate is from 16 odd million this year to 24 million next year plus the fact that and much of

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that was tied to that fact that we changed the number of people and the age in which they are going out on disability pensions.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: And the COLA's.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: And the COLA's, it was two fold. One was the COLA's and one was that.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I don't have any control over disabilities.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I know.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: You know, the procedure.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: We have been to the pension board route and, you know, you see how far we have gotten with that route and there are two options and I am looking for, you know, are we doing something wrong somewhere along the line in managing the fire department that we need to do, I mean, would you expect 10 years down the road that the number of people asking for disability pensions will decrease down to what the actuary would think?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I don't know if it would get down that low but I would suspect that the way we have been going with less injuries that it has to decrease, strictly a guess.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: We had some things on the Board of Contract and Supply in regards to the school. You have a school budgeted in here?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: What is the proposal, to take the test from the last test that you had?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Take people off the current list.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: By current list you mean?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: We have an existing list.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: These people applied when?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: About two years.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: We can do a new list?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: No. Did we do a new list?

COUNCILMAN FENTON: No, shouldn't we? If it is a list that is two years old.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Past practice was three. Everyone on that list is qualified and there is 536 people.

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COUNCILMAN FENTON: Let me just ask a question. If you do a list that is two years old, so you are going to ask the next 60 who are qualified and 10 of them have new jobs and are not interested and 10 of them moved away and then you are now not in the next 60 people best people that are available. You are in the next 30 best and then 30 after that.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Right and we did that. What I did, I forget what the figure was, it was sometime in the beginning of January, we sent out letters, so called, are you still interested.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: When was the first time we asked people? How many people took this test that we are talking about?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: 1750. Approximately January or February of 1990, two years ago.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Okay, 1700 people take the test and are immediately put to work....

CHIEF BERTONCINI: After the test, after the physical and then after the physical agility, we ended up with 536 qualified people. From that list we took the first 65.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Those people went to work when?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: January of 1992. Then we had the 82 and that was in June of 1992.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: The June of 1992 are the ones we said we did not want to hire.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: So now we have 140 people.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Approximately.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Out of the 500.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: There are more than that because there are some that did fail, failed the physical, there was some that didn't make the physical agility. There are some that refused. There were some that were medical. They qualified. They refused, they moved, they turned down the job. We are up into the low 300's to start now.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: And of the first 60, what was the break out, minorities, women, white?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: 15 I believe. I don't have those figures. It was 45 and 15.

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CHAIRMAN DILLON: Then the second 82, what was the break out of that?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Whatever the balance was left. What ever was left we took in the second school, however being blacks, Hispanics, females, whatever was left on the list was taken in the second school.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: How many did it end up being?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I don't know. I only have 7 females in total in both schools. I have the figures, I don't have them with me.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: This school, if you take the next?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: There were no minorities left.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: You don't do a new list, will those that you are planning to go through with, would they be exempted from the residency?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I think the way the law reads is you have to move into the city 6 months from the day you are appointed. Someone correct me if I am wrong. I believe that is how it reads.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: If they are not an employee now, after January 1, 1993, they have to move in.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: If I started school they have to be?

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Now they have 6 months by which to move in.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: This next school that would go through there would be no minorities?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: There were none left on this qualified list.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: So if you went for a new list, you would potentially get more minorities.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Absolutely.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: So that would be a reason to go. How much does it cost to go through the process?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Last time it was \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00, I believe.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I think it would be, and I don't want to speak for anybody, but I think there has been a lot of concern about increasing the number of minorities within Providence

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resident minorities aren't in the fire department, police department, throughout city government. It is not just one department and I think it would be worthwhile to do a new list because you know you are not going to get any in this class.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: You would be talking out of almost 190 people, right? There is 50 on this list and you would be talking of a list that came out with 190 people, I am hearing you say something like 15 and maybe 7 more women.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Could be, I don't know.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: So what would it look like at the end of the 190 people, what would the minority numbers look like?

COUNCILMAN FENTON: How many minorities are there on the fire department right now?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Close to 55 or 60 all total.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Out of 527. So about 10%.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Most of them have been in the past three or four years.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Yes.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: They are doing well. I think they are doing well anyway. It is nice to see the females. Everyone goes along fine. No problems.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: So you need about \$44,000.00 more to do another school.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: How come call back is up another couple of hundred thousand this year?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: We had a 10 week layoff.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: But you have it down in 92-93 but back up in 93-94.

MR. PRIGNANO: The request last year was a million thirty-six thousand and it was brought down to 736. It wasn't the Chief's feeling or our feeling that the million thirty-six or the 736 that we had last year ----. We sat here at this table ---- vacation and whatever and came up with 60,000 -- personal holidays they get but that is the estimate we have. You also have \$100,000.00 in minimum manning so you take \$100,000.00 out of there and tell you what the average is for a week. There were weeks when the call back is \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 and there are also weeks when

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the call back, even with the additional people, is higher. There are vacation weeks, they have personal holidays that they take now instead of sick days and in the summer you need a bit more call back. That is what we feel you need.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: There are no restrictions on when they can have the personal holidays?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: They have to apply if they want them 30 days before a holiday, for example, Christmas, 4th of July because I can't afford to have 40, 50 people call up and say, I am taking Christmas day off so those days there they have to request it 30 days in advance. That way we can control.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Do you pick them by seniority?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Yes. There is a maximum of 13 vacations. In effect, it is another vacation day so obviously if there were 15 people on vacation at Christmas and somebody applied 30 days, we wouldn't allow it because it would just add to the 13 on that day and it is chargeable. That is the thing I can't see about the whole thing.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: It is what?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: It is chargeable against their sick leave. In other words, as I understand, personal days in some other place of employment, it is like a free day, so to speak, a personal day. This is chargeable against your sick leave.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: We actually have both. A lot of people have both.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: A funeral or something like that.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: But this is a personal day. You don't have to give any excuse whatsoever.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: No you just have to let them know.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: And it is chargeable to your sick leave as opposed to, you agree that there are other place....

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Yes the State. Personal day is just a personal day. It is just like a personal day for all intensive purposes. There is no difference.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: And this one is chargeable. If you work for the State it is not chargeable. I am telling you it is chargeable. I counts, it comes off your sick leave. It doesn't

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for the State. It is a free day.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: You are not really fully up to staff. I still have a little problem with that call back though. If you figured in the 27 vacancies, is that how you came up with the \$936,000 number?

MR. PRIGNANO: 27 vacancies.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Didn't you tell us at some point that you are down a few people?

MR. PRIGNANO: 12 vacancies.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: 12 vacancies, it was 27 a year ago or something.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Yes.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: 12 vacancies and 20 on injured.

MR. PRIGNANO: You can figure it out by, Chief -- your demand, there are so many people available for each shift and take out the vacations and you allow for an average of how many people may be off sick and it was 2, 3, 4 and you come down to, you know, you need something like an average of \$17,000, \$16,000 a week. There are weeks that it is very low but even with the extra 60 firefighters there are weeks the call back gets to \$30,000.00 some weeks. I will go through the numbers with you. There are weeks when it is \$3,000.00 but it seems like the average that we seem to be is about \$15,000, \$16,000.00. There is school vacations, there is additionally high call back during those weeks. A lot of people take vacations those weeks, they are actually maxed out on vacation and --- out to 13.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: You should be able to give 13 vacations.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: We do but now we have this personal day in effect too and that adds to it.

MR. PRIGNANO: The personal days and you are down 10, 12 people.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Alright, you do have an analysis?

MR. PRIGNANO: Yes, Steve and I will go through it tomorrow.

MR. WOERNER: Alex, all the equipment numbers in the budget, that is all lease payments, right?

MR. PRIGNANO: 99.9, some we tried to address and --- the fire department but there was a concern last year with some small

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items that we were putting in leases, things like typewriters, PC, those types of things. We are going to come forward. They are all large items.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: What are you asking for Chief?

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I am asking for what I didn't get this year.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: How much of it that you didn't get last year.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: I asked ----- trucks, we didn't get any.

MR. PRIGNANO: Those first few years you have a large benefit, you are getting all that equipment --- could never have bought all that one time but now trying to, Boyce and I listened to you last year ---- we were going to try to put in some of that and as the large amounts are going off we will get the smaller and then maybe there will come a time where we will be able to just ---- one purchase and that is the issue but when we brought the lease plan here several years ago it was ----.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Money goes further.

MR. PRIGNANO: It was a way to get a lot of equipment that the city....

COUNCILMAN FENTON: And keep the tax increase down in the election year. If you do it every year, five years, or 5 million dollars every year, you are paying the interest for no reason. If you are going to do the same amount, why not just spend 5 million dollars because you get 5 million dollars worth of stuff instead of paying 4.5 million dollars -----.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: One of the problems you have to realize with fire trucks, if you buy, for example, 5 1993 fire trucks.....

COUNCILMAN FENTON: No, the same amount the exact same way.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: In other words, the money will be there.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Yes. It is appropriate.

CHIEF BERTONCINI: Instead of doing it on an annual basis.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: But the problem is you never had a year 5 million.

MR. PRIGNANO: That's right. That is exactly the problem.

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COUNCILMAN FENTON: Then you appropriate the money you have instead of referring a debt to later on and paying interest payments all those years.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I know but in no particular year, nobody wanted to anti up and say, instead of that and no tax increase this year, I want to have a \$1.00 tax increase and give the firefighters 5 million dollars.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: And pay for actually what we are buying.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Yes.

MR. PRIGNANO: Right up until the last week of trying to put this budget together, the largest --- was in the fires, it is every year and last year we had to take out.

MR. SPINELLI: I think now that we have the five years on line, I think that your point is valid that we can start weaning ourselves off that because we have gotten the benefit in the early years but rather than come in with a new million dollar lease, if we could get to the point where we are dropping off the first year and might be able to --- as you go and that is the other end --- whether you have a master lease or not, to get the small stuff, there is a lot of things in the past that had no business being on the master lease, take those off.

MR. PRIGNANO: During the year, as items break, equipment goes, we don't have funds in any of these departments. The City Clerk's Department, I think their copying machine went last year, we went to the master lease. Maybe that is an item that you don't think should be leased, maybe, not but we had no other proceeds anywhere else to get it.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Any other questions. Joe Lacky.

MR. LACKEY: All I would like to say is where is the fire department going to. We, since the 70's have ---- in the 70's the automatic nozzles have been around. Since the 70's, radio controlled nozzles have been around. We are talking injuries, rapid water you only use 1 3/4 inch hose, you don't use any 2 1/2 inch hose. Automatic nozzles control the water from 50 to 350 gallons per minute automatically.

MR. -----: We have automatic ones.

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MR. LACKEY: We do? What kind of meters do we have on the engines? Are they water flow meters or are they pressure meters. Water flow meters tell you exactly how much water is coming through. Pressure meters tell you nothing. You should know that. They were developed in the 70's. Why are we buying equipment that doesn't have 55 ----? Last night there was a false alarm at a house on Pekin Street. There were three engines and two ladders. --- use maximini engines. That engine company is 5 men. That gives you 2 men with the 1 3/4 inch hose, you only need 2 men to operate ground lines. We have a driver for the Battalion Chief who is the utility cut-off man, with a maximini you have a utility cut-off man on each company. With current 60 men on our current 15 engines, we have to pass the demand, 12 maxi, 12 ---. You could give us 24 engines and 6 ladder trucks by insurance rate. It would also give us 12 every rescue. It would also give us 12 utility cut-off men. This is 60 men. We almost have enough men with --- commitment to man all the equipment on the engines of Providence, Pawtucket, Warwick, Cranston. I think we have a total of 36 engines and I think 16 ladders for the four cities. Our man power alone is almost enough to run the ladders and the engines by ISO rate, by insurance rates. We do not need our current personnel or we should privatize ----. We are totally over demand.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Thank you. This always comes up at the public hearing. Joe has come to the public hearing several times and we had this discussion before.

MR. LACKEY: This book was published in 1979. We do not have the equipment in this book.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING HOUSE BILL 93-H 6172 AN ACT RELATING TO THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE - CENTER CITY PROVIDENCE DISTRICT.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I have this issue of the downtown legislation. They are looking for action. Our discussion concerned the make-up of the board. We were going to add two people.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Two people appointed by the City Council.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: But they have not made that change. I spoke to Jeff Hagan yesterday and that is not part of the

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legislature that is pending. It is 7 and 2. 7 members appointed by the business committee and 2 members appointed by the Mayor.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: What we said we would do last Thursday was add somebody, another business person and a Council representative.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Why don't we have two from the Council.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: They were concerned about the make-up.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Then add 2 business and 2 Council members.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Right now it is at 9, add 2 appointed by the Council and then it's 11.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: They want a ratio so that the Council and the Mayor's Office can't gang up together and blackmail a couple of business people and say we will do this, we will do that to you.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: So right now it is 7 and 2.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: They want the ratio to stay the same so go 9 and 4.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Why do you want to add 2?

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: He said they feel it should be 2 appointed by the Council, elected by the Council, by the Council President.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I thought we said 1 although it doesn't really matter to me. I thought we said 1 more. It would make it 11.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: 1 by the Majority leader and 1 by the Minority Leader. That is the way it is done at the State House.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: So you want to get to 13?

COUNCILMAN FENTON: 13. So can we amend this?

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: What is the feeling of the people.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: We need to change this to say, Resolved that the City Council endorses and urges passage by the General Assembly of House Bill 93-H 6172 relating to the City of Providence - Center City Providence District, provided that the legislature is amended to add 2 additional representatives by the business community....

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: And 2 to be elected by the Council.

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CHAIRMAN DILLON: Appointed by the Council President.

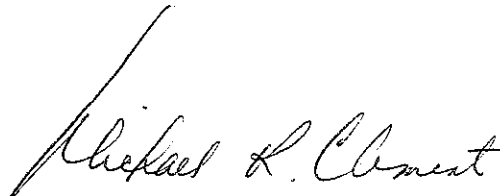
On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Chairman Dillon, it is voted to amend the foregoing Resolution by adding the following:

"provided, however, that the legislation is amended to include 2 members to be appointed by the Council President and 2 members to be appointed by the Chamber of Commerce's Committee on Corporations."

On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Chairman Dillon, it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolution, as amended.

Councilman Fenton is recorded as "Not Voting".

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman Fenton, seconded by Councilman Glavin, it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 o'clock P.M.


CLERK


Assistant Clerk