

Civil Service BoardThe Outlook, March 4, 1982  
WINTER PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY**Board studies fire department problems**

Winter Park's Civil Service Board hopes to have the majority of the kinks ironed out in the city's fire department after a special meeting March 16.

In a civil service board meeting Tuesday, board members heard a report from City Manager David Harden about departmental complaints made by paid and reserve firemen.

Board chairman Jim Moreland explained that a majority of the complaints concerned the fire department's training procedures.

Harden said the city is making steps in that area. Besides more money budgeted for tuition reimbursement for firefighters, he said the city is looking into finding a site for a firefighting training facility. "We hope to do something about it pretty quickly," the city manager added. Harden said a prime spot for the facility is on the city's Showalter Field property.

Fire Chief Sid Ballou said that his priorities since taking over as chief in 1979 were more in improving equipment and facilities rather than in the training area. Harden added that "the department has come a long way" since Ballou took

over. "But now we need to concentrate on personnel and training. I'm confident Sid can handle it in the coming year," he added.

Board members also discussed the feasibility of hiring a full-time training officer or assigning a present officer to that task.

Problems with the fire department's reserve program were also bandied about by board members. Harden explained that a perception he found was that "the reserves were not consulted about changes in the program" made last November.

Ballou explained that the changes, which were initiated in November "were designed to make it more interesting for the reserves. Obviously, we failed." The changes decreased reserves' pay to that of beginning firemen and allowed the reserves an opportunity to spend more time on shifts with the paid firemen.

However, policy changes also cut down on the number of calls on which reserves were asked to respond. "Part of the problem is they're just not getting called," Harden added.

(Cont. on pg. 7)

**Fire department**

(Cont. from pg. 1)

The board also heard a request from Don Freeman, a fireman 1st class-paramedic to allow for more promotional advancement by paramedics. Freeman's proposal would give paramedics with the same amount of experience as an engineer the opportunity to apply for a lieutenant's position. Now only engineers can advance to lieutenant.

Freeman explained that 13 paramedics have been lost by the city within the last four years, most to other departments. He commented that promotion opportunities for paramedics are limited in Winter Park. "The idea is to allow more opportunities for paramedics to be promoted," Freeman explained.

The board will discuss Freeman's proposal along with the problems with the training and reserve programs at their March 16th meeting.