

■ The Winter Park Civil Service Board, sporting at least three new members and department representatives, was told last week that firefighters would like to see it play a more aggressive role in monitoring conditions in the fire and police departments.

Fire Lt. **Reed DeVault** told the board that firefighters had been disappointed in the past that the board did not take more action to correct problems within the department after a board investigation disclosed

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management problems.

"I don't think many people over there feel the board was holding the [former] chief responsible . . . We are not condemning you for things that happened in the past. We just hope, by airing them, we can make you aware so you can build trust," said DeVault.

One way the board can do that is to issue copies of updated department rules and policies to firefighters, he said.

DeVault was assured by members that his comments would be taken to heart.

"I'm not going to be a rubber stamp for anybody, but I'm not going to go looking for problems either. I'll rely on representatives and the chiefs to bring them up," said board member **Steven Bechtel**.

Public safety director **Raymond Beary** later said there appears to be a misconception about the board's powers.

"The Civil Service Board is not a panacea to solve all external and internal problems. That's the responsibility of the chiefs. It is not set up to handle all problems," Beary said.