



WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of
May 1, 2024
Held Via Tele-Conference

Present: Commissioners Casey Healy, Terrie Schwartz and John Hall

Others: Fire Chief James Blanchfield, Deputy Fire Chief John Plofkin, Human Resources Director Sarah Taffel, Firefighter Eric Tucker

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion duly made (Hall) and seconded (Schwartz), the minutes of the Regular Fire Commission April 3, 2024 Meeting were unanimously approved 3-0 at 5:03 PM.
3. **Monthly Reports:**
 - a. **Fire Marshal:** written report submitted.
 - b. **Deputy Chief:** written report submitted. Discussed:
Training topics this month included large area search and rapid intervention, a leadership presentation from Leader in You, forcible entry review with door prop, leadership training conducted by the Danbury Fire Chief and man v. machine training.
New Firefighter John Gagel training.
DC Plofkin completed ICS400 training.
Firefighter Pryor attended arborist rescue training.
Firefighter McEwan is signed up for aerial apparatus training.
Lt. Fouad and Firefighters Scarpetti, McEwan and Morra took the practical exam for Hazmat Tech class, written test upcoming.
Firefighter Bisenius enrolled in an upcoming swift water rescue class.
Quarterly Health and Safety meeting held.
Reviewing and narrowing down records management companies.
 - c. **Apparatus Supervisor:** written report submitted.
4. **Fire Chief Report:** written report submitted. Discussed:
Calls are up for the month of April this year to 174, compared to 137 calls in April 2023.
Budget-meeting was held with the administrative staff and the department is generally on target.
There was a reduction in the FY25 Fire Department budget by the Board of Finance, reducing funds in the hose and recruitment accounts.
Communications-state radio system plan is moving forward, DPW has received portables first which will be followed by Parks and Rec, EMS, Cert and lastly Police and Fire Departments.

Wilton High School's American Sign Language students conducted instruction to town staff.
Lieutenant exam to be held in June.

Members attended Hall of Fame dinner honoring former Captain Jim Gies.

Chief Blanchfield requests a staffing presentation to be added to the agenda for the July Fire Commission meeting.

Emergency Management-

-A building safety and security assessment was conducted by CIRMA at the Fire Departments, Town Hall, Annex and Comstock. Awaiting report.

-In the process of reviewing vendors for community emergency notifications.

-On June 12, the state will conduct its yearly exercise EPPI, scenario will be election security. Multiple town departments participating.

-Insurance coverage has been obtained for CERT, working out particulars.

5. **Commissioner Healy moved to enter into Executive Session at 5:30 pm** to discuss litigation matters, Commissioner Schwartz seconded, and carried 3-0.

Re-opened meeting at 6:28pm, no action taken.

6. **New Business**

Request for Vacation and Personal time carryover

At 6:30 P.M., Chairperson J. Casey Healy MOVED, with Commissioner Terrie Schwartz seconding the Motion to approve Firefighter Eric Tucker's request for a carryover of 108 hours vacation leave from FY24 into FY25, said carried over vacation leave to be used by December 31, 2024. **Motion carried unanimously, 3 -0.**

At 6:31 P.M., Commissioner John Hall MOVED, with Commissioner Terrie Schwartz seconding the Motion to deny Firefighter Eric Tucker's request for a carryover of 24 hours personal leave from FY24 into FY25. **Motion to deny carry over of personal leave carried unanimously 3-0.**

At 6:32 P.M., Chairperson J. Casey Healy MOVED, with Commissioner Terrie Schwartz seconding the Motion to approve Deputy Fire Marshal John Edwards request for a carryover of 80 hours leave from FY24 into FY25, said carried over vacation leave to be used by October 31, 2024. **Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.**

7. **Public Comment:** none

8. **Adjournment at 6:36.**

Respectfully submitted,

J. Casey Healy

J. Casey Healy, Chairperson
Fire Commission