



Fire Commission

236 DANBURY ROAD
WILTON, CONNECTICUT 06897

Minutes of Special Meeting
Fire Department Headquarters

June 8, 2007

JUL 06 2007

TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Rich McCarty, J. Casey Healy and Gary Mecozzi

Others: Chief Paul Milositz, Captain Jim Gies, Captain Kevin Czarnecki, Lt. Mike Michelsen, Lt. Greg Kitik, Firefighters Glenn Johnson and Bill Wilson, Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations, and Administrative Services Sarah Taffel and Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Amatrudo.

A. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: Chairman McCarty, noting that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at approximately 1737 hours.

1. A MOTION was made by Chairman McCarty to approve the minutes of the Commission's special meetings held on May 1, 2007 and May 21, 2007, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and unanimously approved.

B. Review of Monthly Reports

1. Fire Marshal Report - The Commission reviewed without Fire Marshal Kohn's presence, his monthly report for May 2007, which Report noted that Fire Inspector Grosso completed the Fire Investigation module of the pre-certification program and has been accompanying the Fire Marshall on inspections. Chief Milositz advised the Commission that Fire Marshal Kohn ruled that the cause of the April 30, 2007 fire at a residence on Calvin Road was a mattress warmer.
2. Chiefs Report - The Commission reviewed the report entitled "Fire Calls By Nature of Call" for the period commencing May 1, 2007 and ending May 31, 2007, which report noted that there were a total of 157 calls for the month. The Commission also reviewed the orientation and training schedule for probationary Firefighter Jim Blanchfield. Chief Milositz reported that Firefighter Blanchfield had successfully completed day shifts and has been assigned to B Shift for the balance of the month of June. In July, he will move to D Shift, with Firefighter Brad Carlson transferring to B Shift. Chief Milositz also reported that firefighter candidate Justin McCarthy will be sworn in to the Department on June 25, 2007 and will begin training at the Connecticut Fire Academy on June 26, 2007.

c. Old Business

1. Replacement Engines - Chief Milositz advised the Commission that the delivery of the two replacement engines has been postponed from the third week of June to the second week of July due to delays at Pierce. The Chief also advised the Commission that purchase order for all loose equipment for the engines are in the hands of vendors. Chairman McCarty inquired as to the disposition of the two engines that will be replaced. Chief Milositz reported that plans for their sale have not been finalized, noting that the Department has received an offer from King Chemical in Norwalk to purchase one of the engines.
2. Awards Program - Chief Milositz advised the Commission that Firefighter Carlson is working with New England Uniform to design the medals and seals.
3. Wellness Grant - Chief Milositz reported that the Albon Center contract for the health and fitness program had been reviewed and revised by Town Counsel G. Kenneth Bernhard and returned to Albon for comment.
4. Dispatch - Chief Milositz updated the Commission on his review of the dispatch to the aforementioned Calvin Road fire. He reported that the dispatch hardware operated properly but there was a misunderstanding at dispatch of Captain Czarnecki's request for a call back of personnel. Dispatch re-toned the fire call versus sending out an alpha page request for additional personnel. To avoid this problem in the future, Chief Milositz has instructed Fire Department personnel to request an "alpha page" when seeking additional personnel. Chief Milositz also reported that he met with Chief Kulhawik, Jim Voulgarkis (WVAC President) and Captain Crosby to discuss investigating alternatives to the existing dispatch system, including, but not limited to, contracting out for dispatch. Commissioner McCarty noted for clarity that Captain Czarnecki was not on duty at the time of the Calvin Road response but was responding from home and stopped at fire headquarters to be sure that the proper tones and pages were transmitted before he responded to Calvin Road. Captain Czarnecki confirmed Commissioner McCarty's recollection and also added with regard to the Calvin Road response that it was unclear if the Weston Fire Department had responded as a result of automatic mutual aid being transmitted automatically by Wilton dispatch, at the request of responding Wilton units or as a result of Weston dispatch monitoring Wilton responses in close proximity to the Weston town line. Commissioner McCarty noted that since its advent, automatic mutual aid has been a major safety enhancement and that the operation of this automatic response must be verified as part of this dispatch review. Commissioner Healy suggested that a member of the Fire Commission and a member of the Police Commission be asked to take part in the review of dispatch, recommending that Commissioner Mecozzi be the Fire Commission representative. Commissioner Mecozzi advised that he would be willing to accept that role. Chairman McCarty requested that the Chief move this issue forward with all due haste and diligence. Thereafter, Chairman McCarty noted for the record a letter received by him today addressed to Chief Milositz from Lt. Mike Michelsen, President of the Local 2233 of the International Association of Firefighters, under date of 6 June 2007 regarding dispatch issues and that the Commission had not had the opportunity to review its contents.

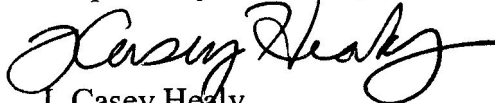
D. New Business

1. Education Reimbursement - A MOTION was made by Commissioner Healy to approve the request by Fire Inspector Rocco Grosso to be reimbursed \$1,368.75 for seventy-five (75%) percent of the fee he paid the University of New Haven for a Fire Science course entitled Fire Protection Systems Application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and unanimously approved.
 2. Fire Marshal Kohn's Request for Vacation Carryover - Chief Milositz recommended that Fire Marshal Kohn's request to carryover 7 vacation days be granted, noting that: (i) Mr. Kohn had been permitted to carryover his vacation days in the past (Having rejoined Local 2233 of the International Association of Firefighters, Mr. Kohn is no longer permitted to do same under terms of the collective bargaining agreement) and (ii) he had whittled his outstanding vacation days down from 18 to 7. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Mecozzi to approve Fire Marshal Kohn's request to carryover 7 vacation days conditioned upon Mr. Kohn using those vacation days on or before August 31, 2007. The motion was seconded by Chairman McCarty and unanimously approved.
 3. Lt. Mike Michelsen's Request for Vacation Carryover - The Commission reviewed Lt. Michelsen's letter dated 8 June 2007 requesting that he be permitted to carry over 4 vacation days because he is on injury leave. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Healy to approve Lt. Michelsen's request to carry over 4 vacation days conditioned upon Mr. Michelsen using those vacation days on or before August 31, 2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and unanimously approved.
- E. Executive Session - A MOTION was made by Chairman McCarty to retire to Executive Session to: (i) discuss the status of the negotiation of the collective bargaining agreement with Local 2233 of the International Association of Firefighters and (ii) to hear a report from Personnel Search Committee Regarding Appointment of Deputy Chief. Chief Milositz and Ms. Taffel were invited to join the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Healy and unanimously approved. The Commission, Chief Milositz and Ms. Taffel adjourned to Executive Session at approximately 1816 hours. At approximately 1901 hours, the Commission ended the Executive Session and returned to open session.
- F. Consideration of Appointment of Deputy Chief - A MOTION was made by Chairman McCarty to offer the Deputy Chiefs position to Mark D. Amatrudo contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation, a physical exam, a drug test and a psychological exam. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and approved by a vote of 2 to 1 with Commissioner Healy voted against. A MOTION was made by Chairman McCarty to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Mr. Amatrudo be offered a salary of \$85,000.00 per annum. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and unanimously approved

G. Adjournment: At approximately 1903 hours, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission will be held on July 3, 2007 at Fire Department Headquarters; said meeting will be a regular monthly meeting commencing at 1830 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Casey Healy", written in a cursive style.

J. Casey Healy

Secretary - Fire Commission