



Fire Commission

236 DANBURY ROAD
WILTON, CONNECTICUT 06897

Minutes of Special Meeting
Fire Department Headquarters

AUG 08 2007

July 5, 2007

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

Others: Chief Paul Milositz, Captain Karl Dolnier, Lt. Mike Michelsen, Firefighters Mike Pryor, Bill Sampson and Bill Wilson, Apparatus Supervisor Ralph Nathanson, Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations, and Administrative Services Sarah Taffel and Wilton Villager reporter Jared Newman.

A. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: Chairman McCarty, noting that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at approximately 1836 hours.

1. A MOTION was made by Chairman McCarty to approve the minutes of the Commission's special meeting held on June 8, 2007, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and unanimously approved.

B. Review of Monthly Reports

1. Chiefs Report - The Commission reviewed the report entitled "Activity Report for June 2007" prepared by Chief Milositz, which report noted that there were a total of 136 calls for the month, including 1 - automobile fire, 1 - dumpster fire and 1 - electrical fire. Chief Milositz advised the Commission that the following training sessions were conducted during the month of June: (i) Dive Team; (ii) Weekly EMS; (iii) Dry Hydrant Drafting; (iv) K-12 Saw with Chain Link Fence and (v) Vehicle Extraction. Chief Milositz acknowledged with thanks: (i) the Dive Team's participation as a water safety unit for a triathlon held in Ridgefield on June 3rd and (ii) Captain Gies and his shift for their support of the Police Department's participation in the Junior Olympic Torch Run; the shift placed Truck 5 in the entrance to the Police Department driveway to welcome runners as they crossed the finish line. The following letters were noted for the record:

- (1) Letter from Police Chief Kulhawik dated April 18, 2007 thanking Firefighters Fuoco and Johnson for pumping out the flooded basement of Police Commission Chairman Matt Mason.
- (2) Letter from Wilton resident Felix Antedomenico dated April 20, 2007 thanking the Department for removing water from the flooded basement at his 57 Blue Ridge Road residence, which flooding threatened his furnace.

- (3) Memorandum from First Selectman Brennan to Chief Milositz dated April 3, 2007 attached to which was a letter from Wilton resident Gisela Fort dated March 25, 2007 thanking Cathy Lucas for her efforts to obtain assistance from members of the Fire Department in connection with the removal of snow from her 58 Sturges Ridge Road residence.
- (4) Letter from Waterbury Fire Chief Michael A. Maglione and Fernando Ramirez, President of I.A.F.F. Local 1339 to Chief Milositz dated June 25, 2007 thanking members of the Department for their efforts with respect to various ceremonies to honor Waterbury Fire Captain John Keane who died in a traffic accident while responding to a call; the letter paid particular thanks to Firefighter Bill Wilson for operating the Department's ATV to shuttle attendees.
- (5) Letter from Chief Heather Burford of the Ridgefield Fire Department to Chief Milositz thanking the Dive Team for acting as a water safety unit for the aforementioned triathlon held in Ridgefield.
- (6) Letter from Chief Milositz to Holmatro, Inc. dated May 23, 2007 nominating Captains Dolnier and Czarnecki, Lt. Cassin and Firefighters Carlson, Pryor, Sampson and Wilson for recognition in the use of Holmatro tools in connection with the extraction of a 17 year old driver trapped in his vehicle after a rollover on Vista Road that occurred on June 17, 2007.

Chief Milositz advised the Commission that Firefighter Carlson and Apparatus Supervisor Nathanson played with the Connecticut Firefighters Pipes and Drums at Captain Keane's funeral. Chief Milositz concluded his report by thanking all members of the Department and in particular the Shift Captain for stepping up in the wake of former Deputy Chief George Peters' retirement to assist with various duties pending the employment of a new Deputy Chief.

2. Apparatus Supervisor's Report - The Commission reviewed Apparatus Supervisor Nathanson's report entitled "Breakdown on Maintenance and Repairs 1/07 and 6/07." Mr. Nathanson advised the Commission that the only major repairs during the six month period were the replacement of the radiator and the rebuilding of the transmission in Engine 1.

c. Old Business

1. Replacement Engines - Chief Milositz advised the Commission that the members of the apparatus committee and he will be at Pierce in Appleton, WI on July 10th through July 13th to make a final inspection of the two replacement engines. The replacement engines should arrive in Connecticut on or about July 18th. The Chief estimated that it would take approximately a month for Firematic to mount and install the equipment in the engines.
2. Awards Program - Chief Milositz noted that there was nothing new to report; Commissioner Mecozzi and Firefighter Carlson are awaiting the design of medals and seals from New England Uniform.
3. Wellness Grant - Chief Milositz reported that he is awaiting the return of the contract for the health and fitness program from the Albon Center. In the meantime, the program has commenced, with representatives of Albon spending 2 hours a day and 4 days a week at the Department conducting initial assessments of the Department members. A new treadmill and an elliptical machine have been ordered from the proceeds of the grant. The Commission

expressed its concern with the delay in completing the contract with Albon Center and that if the contract was not completed shortly, available alternatives would have to be evaluated.

4. Dispatch - Commissioner Mecozzi reported that on June 28th he met with Police Chief Kulhawik, Police Captain Crosby and Police Commissioner Ketley to discuss dispatch issues. He advised that the Police Department is proactive in training its members and the civilian dispatchers and that the Department is willing to work jointly with the Fire Department to improve dispatch, recognizing that no one and no one system is perfect. Commissioner Mecozzi noted that no written reports had been filed with the Police Commission since 2004 making it difficult for dispatch to correct perceived problems. Lt. Michelsen advised the Commission that the members of the Fire Department had stopped filing written complaints regarding dispatch for the reason that the Police Department had taken "punitive action" on the basis of those complaints. Chief Milositz responded that he had confirmed with Chief Kulhawik that no punitive action had been taken based upon any complaint regarding dispatch. Commissioner McCarty reminded all that over two years ago the Commission had advised the members of the Department that any complaints regarding dispatch were to be made in writing; there is no excuse for failure to follow established procedures and that if the protocols result in so-called "punitive action" then so be it and that is within the responsibility of the Police Department and the Police Commission.

D. New Business

- I. Purchase of Jack System and Other Improvements per 2008 Budget - Apparatus Supervisor Nathanson advised that he has negotiated a 6 unit ball and screw jack system from ARI Herta of Virginia for the price of a 4 unit system. The system can lift 108,000 pounds. The system will come in at budget including electrical upgrades at Station 1. Chief Milositz reported that a purchase order has gone out to replace the fire alarm panel and smoke and heat detectors at Station 1. The Chief also reported that Car 6 would be replaced by a new Tahoe from Wilton Chevy and he thanked Mr. Nathanson for negotiating a \$2,000 trade in on former Car 6.
 2. Impact of Route 7 Construction on Response Times - Chief Milositz reported that at the most recent Public Safety Management Unit meeting, Police Chief Kulhawik and Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps. ("WVAC") President Jim Voulgarkis advised that the Police and WVAC were not experiencing lengthened response times. Captain Dolnier advised the Commission that there had not been any appreciable delays; noting that most drivers are pretty good at moving out of the way of emergency vehicles.
- 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 an update on the Appointment of Deputy Chief. Chief Milositz and Ms. Taffel were invited to join the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and unanimously approved. The Commission, Chief Milositz and Ms. Taffel adjourned to Executive Session at approximately 1927 hours. At approximately 2004 hours, the Commission ended the Executive Session and returned to open session. No action was taken in Executive Session.
- F. **Adjournment:** At approximately 2005 hours, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission will be held on August 7, 2007 at Fire Department Headquarters; said meeting will be a regular monthly meeting commencing at 1830 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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J. Casey Healy
Secretary - Fire Commission