

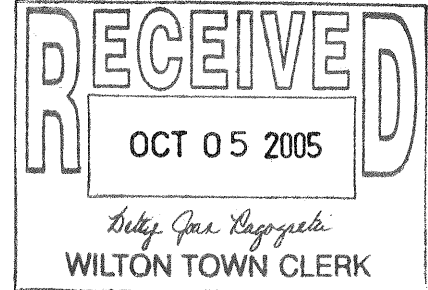


Fire Commission

236 DANBURY ROAD
WILTON, CONNECTICUT 06897

**Wilton Fire Commission
Minutes of Special Meeting
Fire Department Headquarters**

September 8, 2005



Present: Commissioners Richard McCarty, Hesham El-abd (arrived at 1824 hours) and J. Casey Healy

Others: Chief Paul Milositz, Captain Stuart Carter, Captain Karl Dolnier, Lt. Mike Michelsen, Lt. Kevin Czarnecki; Firefighters Rocco Grosso, Dave Chaloux, Glen Johnson, Pat Garber and Jeff Locher; Cathy Lucas; Administrative Service Manager Sarah Taffel and First Selectman Paul Hannah (arrived at 1843 hours)

A. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: Chairman McCarty, noting that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at approximately 1817 hours.

1. **A MOTION** was made by Chairman McCarty to approve the minutes of the Commission's monthly meeting held on August 2, 2005. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Healy and unanimously approved.
2. Chief Milositz apologized for the Fire Department's failure to include the Wilton Police Department in a published advertisement announcing that relief supplies for victims of Hurricane Katrina could be dropped off at Fire Department Headquarters, noting that the Police Department is one of the Department's closest partners. The Chief stated that the Department will do a better job in the future to assure that this communications failure does not happen again.

B. Review of Monthly Reports

1. Deputy Chief's Report – The Commission reviewed the Deputy Chief's report dated September 7, 2005 (Volunteer Participation Report for July was attached). The Report noted that there were 167 responses by the Department during the month of August and training for the month included EMS training on new defibrillators. Chief Milositz reported that the new defibrillators can be used on pediatric patients. The Chief also reported that the Fire Department Headquarters' dispatch alerting system malfunctioned several times during the month. Repairs have been made but the system will need to be replaced. Funding for the replacement hardware is sitting with the State of Connecticut awaiting appropriations approval.

Chief Milositz advised the Commission that at the recommendation of Captain Dolnier, he had issued letters of commendation to Lt. Czarnecki and Firefighters Carlson and Dwyer for their efforts in extinguishing a fire at a Nod Hill residence that had been struck by lightning. Those efforts included quickly locating the source of the fire, extinguishing it and relocating the residents' personal property in order to lessen the damage to same. Commissioner Healy advised the Commission that he was present at the fire and he opined that Lt. Czarnecki and Firefighters Carlson and Dwyer had gone out of their way to relocate the personal property away from direct exposure to the water and debris.

2. Fire Marshal's Report – The Commission reviewed Fire Marshal Kohn's Report dated August 2005. The Report noted that Fire Marshal Kohn has submitted his proposed inspection fee schedule to the Town Counsel's office for advice regarding the steps to be taken for adoption. Chairman McCarty noted that the number of inspections continue to trend up. Upon the recommendation of Chief Milositz, the Commission agreed to reschedule Emergency Services Day from Sunday October 9th to Sunday October 16th in order to avoid Columbus Day weekend. Fire Inspector Meehan is spearheading the project.

C. Old Business

1. Radio Communications and Dispatch – Chairman McCarty requested that the Chief confirm that there are no delays in dispatching the Department's responders to calls. Chief Milositz advised that he would and he noted his belief that there are isolated incidents when Police units are dispatched prior to the Fire Department. Chief Milositz reported that he is scheduled to meet with Police Captain Bob Crosby regarding the installation and testing of a "Run Card" program. If successful, the program will automate the dispatch of emergency units for Wilton Dispatch.
2. Volunteers – Chairman McCarty reported that Chief Milositz and he will meet to discuss the Volunteer Department.
3. Web Site – Sarah Taffel reported that the Town is interviewing IT candidates. Chief Milositz noted that when he or she is hired, he would ask that person to review and comment on the Department's web site.
4. Captain's Position – Chief Milositz reported that he reached an agreement with the Firefighters Union regarding testing and evaluations for promotions. Sarah Taffel is drafting a memorandum to memorialize the agreement. In general summary, the agreement provides that: (i) job posting will mirror the method used by Town Hall with appropriate time periods to make application for a position and to ready for the requisite written exam and oral board; (ii) the written exam will be promulgated by the Connecticut Fire Academy; (iii) the oral board will be administered by 3 members of departments not congruent with Wilton who hold the same or higher rank as the position being tested for; and (iv) a candidate's score will be comprised of 45% written exam, 45% oral board and 10% evaluation. With respect to the evaluations for the vacant captain's position, each captain, including retired Captain Bill Cesareo, and Chief Milositz will complete an evaluation form for each of the 7 candidates. The high and low score of the evaluations for each candidate by the 4 captains will be thrown out; the two remaining scores will added to the Chief's score and those three aggregate scores will be multiplied by .1 to arrive at the candidate's evaluation score. With respect to

future promotions, Chief Milositz and the Union will reach agreement on a records review for candidates.

5. Performance Reviews – Chief Milositz reported that the Union and he will use the performance evaluation forms for the captain's position as a template to develop an annual performance evaluation for all members of the Department.
6. Meeting with other Commissions – No discussion was had.
7. September 11th Ceremony – Scheduled for Sunday September 11th in front of Fire Headquarters with refreshments to follow in the apparatus bays. Weather permitting, Ladder 5 will be parked in the driveway at Danbury Road with Ladder raised. First Selectmen Hannah requested that in the future, notice of the ceremony be circulated to the First Selectmen's office in advance in order to allow opportunity to avoid conflicting events.

D. New Business:

1. Firefighter Candidate Bill Wilson – Chief Milositz reported that Mr. Wilson is scheduled to graduate from the Academy on September 21st at 1:30 p.m. Chief Milositz plans to attend the ceremony.
2. Hurricane Katrina – First Selectmen Hannah advised the Commission that the Connecticut Office of Emergency Management ("OEM") requested each municipality to submit a list of what it could supply to the relief effort if requested by the Emergency Management Assistance Compact ("EMAC"). Wilton advised OEM that it could supply 2 Firefighters, 2 Police Officers and 2 Police vehicles on a rotational basis of 16 days at a time (1 day to travel down, 14 days on scene and 1 day to travel back). Mr. Hannah reported that as of 1800 hours on September 8th OEM had not received any request for response from EMAC other than military personnel. Mr. Hannah also reported that OEM believes 1,500 victims of the hurricane will be relocated to Connecticut and that the State will hold a hurricane drill in the very near future with local emergency operations centers.
3. Farewell to Commissioner El-abd – On behalf of the Commission, Chairman McCarty thanked Commissioner El-abd for his service and his contributions to the Commission, the Department and the community, noting that the Town was a better place than when he started. Firefighters Union President Mike Michelsen read a statement from the Union thanking Commissioner El-abd for his efforts to improve the Department, in particular his support of 6-man shifts. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Hannah thanked Mr. El-abd for his service.

- E. Adjournment:** At approximately 1911 hours, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned to the presentation of a gift and cake to Commissioner El-abd in the Day Room.

The next regular meeting of the Commission will be held on October 4, 2005 at Fire Department Headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Casey Healy".

J. Casey Healy
Secretary - Fire Commission

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Wilton Fire Fighters Local 2233

Commissioner Hesham El Abd,

September 10, 2005

On behalf of the Wilton Career Fire Fighters I would like to extend our most sincere gratitude for the work and effort that you've put forward for the betterment of the Town of Wilton and the Wilton Fire Department.

You have displayed an imaginative approach to some persistent problems within the department, as well, you have become known for being a steadfast supporter of some controversial issues (i.e. manpower). Your courage and pursuit of taking politics out of the firehouse has helped to allow our fire fighters to function with the best training and equipment possible while maintaining a safe manpower level, has highlighted your tenure with the Fire Commission.

Thank you for caring and devoting the time to help improve our safety as well as your neighbor's.

Sincerely,

Dave Chaloux
Secretary
Local 2233 IAFF

During my tenure as Chief, it has been one of my top priorities to continually promote and foster better relations with our sister emergency service organizations. We have experienced unparalleled cooperation between us and the Police Department as well as the Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps. This week we experienced what could be called a set back in our relations. In the enthusiasm to help hurricane relief efforts, we inadvertently omitted the inclusion of one of our closet partners. This was never our intent. In this department, the buck must stop at the Chief's office. I take full responsibility for the communications failure between our departments. I want to offer a sincere apology to any individual or organization we have offended by this error. I assure you that it was never our intent to exclude or restrict participation of any organization, especially our emergency services teammates at the Police Department. I hope you can accept my apology and I can assure you that we will do a better job of it next time.