



## WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

**Special Meeting Minutes of  
February 1, 2023  
Held Via Tele-Conference**

**Present:** Commissioners Casey Healy, Terrie Schwartz and John Hall.

**Others:** Fire Chief James Blanchfield, Deputy Fire Marshal Plank (ret.) and Apparatus Supervisor Richard Carlo, Deputy Chief John A. Plofkin, Jr, Firefighter Noah H. Fouad.

**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 Special Fire Commission January 11, 2023 Meeting held were unanimously approved 3-0 at 5:02 PM.

**3.** Motion (Hall) to scramble to order of the meeting to have the Marshal Report and Apparatus Supervisor Report before Executive Session, 2<sup>nd</sup> (Schwartz), approved 3-0 at 5:03 PM.

#### **4. Monthly Reports**

A. Fire Marshal – written report submitted.

- Kevin Plank, retired Dep. Fire Marshal gave report, discussed Connecticut state of emergency (COVID) effect on inspections. Wanted to thank the Commission, and specifically Chairperson Healy for its support to him upon hire and promotion. Commissioners, Fire Chief thanked Kevin for his service.

B. Apparatus Supervisor Carlo - written report submitted. Reviewed monthly repairs and maintenance. Also discussed process for Truck 5 replacement, possible delay in construction. Committee to consider re-meeting in May, 2023. Discussed Engine 4 going out of service. Department kept Engine 4 in service as long as it could while New Canaan's tanker was out.

Also discussed efforts to slow down corrosion of underside of vehicles, such as E-3, E-2 and E-4.

**5. Executive Session:** MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROMOTION AND OUTSTANDING LITIGATION. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and Passed 3-0. HR Director Taffel, DC Plofkin and Chief Blanchfield invited into executive session along with FF Noah Fouad for promotion portion of Executive Session.

Re-Enter Regular Meeting at 6:38 PM.

Motion made by Commissioner Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Schwartz to Promote Firefighter Noah Fouad to Lieutenant effective February 2, 2023. Motion Passed 3-0.

No other action taken from Executive Session.

6. **Deputy Chief Report** - written report submitted.– reviewed both Training and Health & Safety reports.
7. **Fire Chief Report** – written report submitted.
  - A. Hydrant repairs at Cinder Mill ongoing. Chief and Matt Knickerbocker to meet with Aquarion re: Water Conservation Town Program.
  - B. Budget for FY24 and Capital plan – meetings with Board of Selectman February 6, 2023.
    - Correction made on budget worksheet re: EMT stipend.
  - C. Facilities – Kitchen working through punch list. 99% completed.
  - D. Personnel – 2 retirements, D.F.M Plank and Lt. Thomas Cassin
    - One firefighter out on long term injury.
  - E. Burn Permits – Chief, Fire Marshall working with outside counsel to make process more amenable to citizenry.
  - F. Physicals – new provider Stamford Health – revised letter of engagement.
  - G. Held quarterly fire officer meeting and health and safety meeting.
  - H. Met with First Due, possible RMS replacement
  - I. ASL class Wilton High School conducted presentation at fire HQ on sign language, well received.
8. **Public Comment:** Union President Gary Mandel; spoke of losing Thomas Cassin and Kevin Plank to retirement and congratulated Noah Fouad on promotion.
9. **Adjournment:** Upon a motion duly made (Hall) and seconded (Healy), the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*J. Casey Healy*

J. Casey Healy, Chairperson  
Fire Commission