



## WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

### Special Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2023 Held Via Tele-Conference

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

**Others:** Fire Chief James Blanchfield, Deputy Fire Chief John Plofkin, Apparatus Supervisor Richard Carlo,

**1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:10 PM

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion duly made (Healy) and seconded (Schwartz), the minutes of the Fire Commission June 14, 2023 Special Meeting held were approved 2-0 at 5:11 PM. Commissioner Hall abstained.

### **3. Monthly Reports:**

- a. Fire Marshal: written report submitted. Commissioner Healy stated he would hold his questioning of the Marshal's report until next month.
- b. Deputy Chief: written report submitted. Discussed portions of report, including:
  1. dry hydrant training, large fire flow training.
  2. June was National Safety Stand down training – discussed lithium ion battery hazards.
  3. FF Morra enrolled in Pump Operator course.
  4. Several others enrolled in training programs. Commission thanked those who continue to educate themselves
  - Particulate blocking hoods issued to personnel. Discussion ensued about PPE, OSHA and NFPA requirements, process used to manage replacement of expired/damaged PPE. Purchase of Gear Washer and dryer was viewed positively by Commission and administration.
- c. Apparatus Supervisor: written report submitted.  
Discussed Engine Committee visits to area fire departments to look at similar apparatus. Committee will continue to work to put specification together.  
Commissioner Schwartz raised the question of when property's trees interfere with emergency vehicle access – discuss ensued. Chief discussed driveway work approval process.  
A.S. Carlo assisted Fairfield Fire with apparatus issues recently. Town of Fairfield very appreciative. Fairfield's mechanics will be on call when A.S. Carlo goes on vacation next week. Commissioner Healy send written thanks to A.S. Carlo.

**4. Fire Chief Report:** Written report submitted

- Call volume continues to increase, both monthly and against past year's statistics.
- Budget FY23 report submitted. – most line items were within budgeted figures. OT was up but balanced against lower regular pay, benefits, etc.
- Defibrators replaced and truck tool kits replaced part of capital budget process.
- New dispatch consoles installed at Police HQ. Training completed on this, Lt. Montgomery attended.
- Facilities – paint quote in for administration area.
- Training room AC repaired, floors cleaned. 2<sup>nd</sup> storage container delivered. One will be dedicated for apparatus supervisor – Will need to re-raise request for cameras for the outside storage area.
- Station 2 – fire door replaced, mirror installed Apparatus Bay speaker installation completed, big improvement. Window quote out to bid.
- DFM Edwards passed his certifications – is a certified Fire Marshal now.
- Backup system developed for FD payroll

Commission thanked firefighters for their work as EMTs, noted Capt. Locher and FF Pryor's recent life saving call. Commissioner Healy sent written note of thanks. Chief Blanchfield spoke of efficiency of the EMS system

Commissioner Hall questioned reason for lack of storage space. Chief Blanchfield mentioned building maximizes usable space to the detriment of closet space. Also mentioned conversion of classroom area from storage room.

Emergency Management – meeting with BOE reps re: school security, training. Smoke issues discussed.

**5. Unfinished Business:** discussed in Chief's report.

**6. New Business:** At 5:56 PM., Commissioner Chairperson Healey MOVED to approve FF Bryan Montgomery's 7/1/23 request for \$881.25 educational reimbursement pursuant to Article 35, ¶ C in the CBA. Commissioner John Hall SECONDED, and CARRIED 3-0-0 with all in favor.

Also noted that Captain Wilson will be starting a job-related degree soon.

**7. Public Comment:** none

IDs for Commissioners will be worked on in the month of July.

**8. Adjournment at 6:01 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

*J. Casey Healy*

J. Casey Healy, Chairperson  
Fire Commission