



## WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes of  
August 2, 2023  
Held Via Tele-Conference

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

**Others:** Fire Chief James Blanchfield, Deputy Fire Chief John Plofkin, Jr., Apparatus Supervisor Richard Carlo, Jr., Fire Marshall Rocco Grosso, Human Resource Director Sarah Taffel.

**1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:07 PM

**2. Amended Agenda:**

- a. At 5:07 P.M. Commissioner Healy MOVED to amend the agenda to eliminate the discussion of ongoing litigation matters under the executive session. Motion SECONDED by Commissioner Hall, APPROVED 3-0.
- b. At 5:09 P.M. Commissioner Healy MOVED to rearrange the agenda and enter into executive session to discuss 7/19/23 grievance as first order of business, inviting Chief Blanchfield, Deputy Chief Plofkin and HR Director Taffel. Motion SECONDED by Commissioner Schwartz, APPROVED 3-0

ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:10 PM

AT 5:51 PM, RETURNED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AND REOPENED REGULAR MEETING, NO ACTION TAKEN - Commissioner Healy noted S. Taffel's invitation to Executive Session.

**3. Monthly Reports:**

- a. Fire Marshal: Written report submitted: 64 inspections completed for the month of July, DFM Edwards is now certified and helping to catch up on overdue inspections due to COVID and vacancy. Investigations completed on multiple fires last month. Public education events at the YMCA and at the Wilton street fair. Also discussed recent plan reviews from 183 Ridgefield Rd and Rolling Hills Country Club
- b. Apparatus Supervisor: Written report submitted: Reviewed submitted report. Discussed E-1 overheating issue found by FF Morra. Discussed Engine 1 Committee work in July, plan for August. Commissioner Schwartz inquired as to vendors used by department's visited by Apparatus Committee. Carlo stated that was one of the reasons those municipalities were selected as they had vendors in common. Prospective Manufacturer presentations are upcoming at headquarters.

All 3 Commissioners thanked Carlo for enrolling in training program with Spartan Motors.

- c. Deputy Chief: written report submitted: Discussed training, IT upgrades, FF Wydra's EMT training and AS Carlo's fall training. Fireworks event went very well, great planning by all involved. DC Plofkin announced his appointment for a second year as Chair of the Town Safety committee. Also discussed:
- EV responses, and use of fire blankets in a EV fire;
  - purchase of replacement ladder belts, and
  - replacement of AEDs whose acceptable useful life has ended.

**4. Fire Chief Report:**

- Call volume remains robust, continuing to see an increase. Will present a four-year review at next month's meeting.
- Received a thank you letter from Ridgefield Fire Department who lost a member to cancer and WFD provided coverage.
- Budget – working on closing our fiscal year 2023 and setting up line items for fiscal year 2024
- Personnel – no one out on injury. Two of the new hires are coming up on first year anniversaries with their last review and will be off probation. FF Morra is enrolled in pump operator class in the Fall.
- Collecting after action reports from the Fireworks event from all departments involved.
- Fire hydrants now operating at Cider Mill. Thank you to Jeff Pardo from DPW
- Opticom issue at Rt. 7 and Rt. 33 due to a lightning strike, Town of Wilton is responsible for maintenance and repair.
- New Canaan FD and Wilton FD working on automatic aid agreement near the Station 2 response area of Wilton/New Canaan.
- Chief Blanchfield and FM Grosso attending meeting for the master plan for the center of Wilton and how the plans will involve the Fire Department.

**5. Unfinished Business:**

- HVAC system at HQ – insulation needs replacement
- Architect walk through done last week of town buildings – including FD HQ and St. 2.
- Exterior security cameras – Jeff Pardo heading up working group to install cameras on south driveway.
- Reviewed Town Wide radio system replacement

**6. Public Comment: none**

**7. Adjournment at 6:36**

Respectfully submitted,

*J. Casey Healy*

J. Casey Healy, Chairperson  
Fire Commission