



WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of
November 1, 2023
Held Via Tele-Conference

Present: Commissioners Casey Healy, Terrie Schwartz and John Hall

Others: Fire Chief James Blanchfield, Deputy Fire Chief John Plofkin, Fire Marshal Rocco Grosso, Apparatus Supervisor Rich Carlo, First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Human Resources Director Sarah Taffel, Captain Bill Wilson

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM

2. Approval of Minutes: Upon motion duly made (Schwartz) and seconded (Healy), the minutes of the Regular Fire Commission October 4, 2023 Meeting held were unanimously approved 3-0 at 5:02 PM.

3. Monthly Reports:

a. Fire Marshal: Written report submitted. The Fire Marshal's office completed 45 inspections in October as well as fire investigations. October was Fire Prevention month, many public education events were held including presentations at Cider Mill School, the Montessori school and Zion Hill preschool. The Fire Department was present at Ambler Farm Day, the Town's Halloween parade and the SEPTA Halloween event. The Brownies had a tour of the Fire Department and the Wilton High School photography class photographed apparatus.

Also discussed was the increase in proposed residential apartment complexes in Wilton, which total 916 new apartments and the new hotel and the effects those projects will have on the work load at the Fire Marshal's office.

b. Apparatus Supervisor: written report submitted. Rich Carlo discussed several problems with our older apparatus. Truck 5 is now back in service after 5 weeks, engine 4 had intermittent problems and ultimately needed the turbocharger replaced, and engine 1 had a quick repair completed.

Week-long seminar in Michigan was a great experience, gained much information through hands on demonstrations and presentations.

Truck 5 committee will meet in March for a pre-construction conference, and delivery is expected in January 2025.

Commissioner Hall commended Rich Carlo on his expertise and First Selectwoman Vanderslice concurred. First Selectwoman Vanderslice also commended the positive tone of the Fire Commission meeting.

c. Deputy Chief: written report submitted.

Training- October was a busy month for training. Sikorsky Aircraft delivered training to four shifts, vehicle stabilization training was held by Connecticut Custom Fire Training at Allen's Meadows with assistance from DPW and ground ladder training was completed at headquarters.

Deputy Chief Plofkin thanks FD members for thoroughly cleaning all the equipment from the Allen's Meadows training and Commissioner Schwartz commends the department for the training demonstrations she attended.

Chief Blanchfield, Captain Elliott, Lt. Montgomery and FF Morra attended the Fire/EMS Expo.

Health and Safety-annual fit testing and gear inspections were completed, and new hose received.

Health and Safety Committee for the Town of Wilton – Inspected the Police Department and the animal shelter. Next month inspections will be conducted at the Fire Departments.

On November 7, ASML will be holding a Safety Day from 5am-1:30 which will be attended by the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and the Fire Marshall's department.

Tech Rescue guides have been made available to members thanks to the recommendation by FF Scarpetti.

- 4. New Business-** At 5:43 PM, Commissioner Schwartz moved to approve Capt. William Wilson's 8.28.23 request for educational reimbursement pursuant to Article 35, ¶ C in the CBA. Commissioner Hall SECONDED, and CARRIED 3-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:45 pm, Commissioner Healy moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Fire Chief's employment contract with Human Resources Director Taffel and First Selectwoman Vanderslice.

At 6:21, returned from Executive Session and reopened regular meeting. Commissioner Hall moved to recommend the Board of Selectman to extend Fire Chief Blanchfield's employment contract three years beyond the expiration of its original term. Commissioner Schwartz SECONDED, and CARRIED 3-0-0.

- 5. Fire Chief Report:** written report submitted Calls for month listed in written report. Year to date responses increased.

Budget on track, purchase of turbocharger for tanker was very expensive repair.

Communications- state radio system project-switching infrastructure, all equipment is purchased and the project will go into next year.

Speaker work was done in the administration area at headquarters.

The department entered into a radio sharing agreement with Region 1 municipalities.

Facilities- Station 2 windows delivered and the project is moving forward, Also, septic was pumped and lock work was completed.

Emergency Management- working with EMS and Norwalk Hospital, the town has to submit an updated Emergency medical plan this year. Updating is being completed on the Emergency response plan for the town, EMT grant submitted and funds received will be spent on emergency management.

Regional training event held which involved the Fire and Police Departments, EMS and CERT, which presented an emergency HAZMAT scenario on Route 7 near the YMCA. It was a successful event that was well received by the participants.

Other meetings held- Officer meeting and Health and Safety meetings.

6. Public Comment: none

- 7. Comments-** The Fire Commission thanked First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice for her assistance and support of the Fire Department during her terms. First Selectwoman Vanderslice showed her appreciation to the Commission for their service.

8. Adjournment at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Casey Healy

J. Casey Healy, Chairperson
Fire Commission