



WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE

Present: Commissioners J. Casey Healy and Christopher Weldon.

Others: Chief Geoff Herald, Acting Deputy Chief Jim Blanchfield, First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice and Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations and Administrative Services Sarah Taffel.

- A. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at approximately 17:38 hours.
- B. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Commission's September 3, 2020 will be reviewed at the next regular meeting.
- C. **Unfinished Business:**
 - (i) **Covid-19 Update:** The Chief advised the Department has had no positive cases and that Covid supplies are in good shape. The Department has been proactive, not reactive, in its response. Selectwoman Vanderslice thanked Chief Herald for his leadership.
 - (ii) **Apparatus:** The Chief advised that the original refurbishment planned last year for Truck 5 has been delayed because of Covid. Additionally, the cost to refurbish Truck 5 has increased significantly. The Department will review the costs to refurbish the truck versus the cost to purchase a new truck. In the meantime, Truck 5 will be out for recall repairs.

Utility 6 is being outfitted with equipment from Truck 5 and may go into operation while Truck 5 is out of service.
 - (iii) **Personnel:** Discussion centered on the vacant Captain and Firefighter positions and the upcoming Lieutenant or Firefighter position that will be created once the Captain's position is filled. There is a list of candidates for the firefighter position and the process of filling all positions is in the works. The Chief stressed the need to fill the

*Minutes have not been reviewed by this Board and may be subject to revision in future minutes.

Deputy Chief position. There is a group of candidates on which to focus. It will take approximately 6 weeks for oral boards and candidate interviews to be completed.

D. Chief's Transition Report: Deputy Chief Blanchfield has prepared a week by week report for the last 5 weeks covering topics such as budget review, apparatus acquisition and advice from the Chief concerning, among other topics, communications.

E. New Business:

- (i) Budget Forecast: A nine-month forecast has been prepared. Items other than Overtime and Apparatus Repair should be well maintained and within limits.
- (ii) Water Line Project: The Chief advised this is an Aquarion project begun 2 years ago. It will add a 36" water main from the New Canaan line to just west of Miller Driscoll School. There will be a significant impact on travel beginning in the Spring of 2021. There will need to be a plan to address apparatus access for the following year.
- (iii) Tuition Reimbursement: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to approve an educational reimbursement for a Fire Service class to Firefighter Montgomery.

F. Public Comment: None.

G. Adjournment: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 18:18 hours,

Respectfully submitted,

J. Casey Healy

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Fire Commission