



## WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2020 HELD ELECTRONICALLY

**Present:** Commissioners J. Casey Healy and Christopher Weldon.

**Others:** Chief Jim Blanchfield, Firefighter Dave Chaloux, 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 18:00 hours.

**B. Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the Commission's September 3rd Special Meeting and September 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Session and Special Meeting will be reviewed at the next regular meeting.

**C. Monthly Reports:**

- (i). **Fire Chief:** The Chief reported that responses and medical calls for the month were typical. Responses were almost identical to September 2019. There was significant training with the new rescue equipment and the Chief attended weekly Covid meetings during the month. The transition to the new Chief worked well.
- (ii) **Fire Marshal:** The Fire Marshal may see a need for increased occupancy monitoring in response to the Phase 3 opening, particularly in restaurants. Inspections remain deferred as a result of Covid.

**D. Unfinished Business:**

- (i) **Covid-19 Updated Protocols:** The Department's travel policy has been updated and a formal written policy is forthcoming. The Department has undertaken heightened cleaning. There have been safety changes made to the response to medical calls.

Ms. Vanderslice and Ms. Taffel provided an overview of the Town's personnel travel policy, especially as it relates to essential vs. non-

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essential employees. Numerous revisions have been in response to Governor's orders. The requirement for a 14 day self-quarantine as opposed to a 72-hour test will be reviewed.

(ii) **Facilities:**

- a. Headquarters: The hydrant will be replaced with a new hydrant and moved closer to the building, which should alleviate traffic issues.
- b. Station 2 water update: Town Engineer Frank Smeriglio continues to lead this project.

(iii) **Personnel:**

- a. Promotional process: The choice of testing company for the Captain opening is being researched. It is expected the process will be the same as those used recently. This could lead to a Lieutenant opening and testing for that position.
- b. Hiring new recruit(s): There is one open line position. A list of candidates is being compiled for Zoom interviews, hopefully by the end of October. There was a discussion regarding the need for all new hires to attend the Academy.
- c. Hazmat team opening: Captain Elliott was selected to fill this opening pending receipt of requisite certifications.
- d. DC search progress: There are 6 candidates remaining. The 3-Chief panel is tentatively scheduled to interview the candidates on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**E. Public Comment:** Firefighter Chaloux congratulated Chief Blanchfield on his promotion.

**F. Adjournment:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 18:45 hours,

Respectfully submitted,

*J. Casey Healy*

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Fire Commission

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