



WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2020 HELD ELECTRONICALLY

Present: Commissioners J. Casey Healy and Christopher Weldon.

Others: Chief Jim Blanchfield, Fire Marshal Rocco Grosso, First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations and Administrative Services Sarah Taffel and Administrative Secretary Cathy Horn.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at approximately 18:22 hours.
2. **Reading and Approval of Minutes.** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the Fire Commission's September 3rd Special Meeting, September 23rd Special Meeting and October 7th Regular Meeting were approved 2-0.

3. Monthly Reports:

- A. **Fire Chief:** There were 165 calls during the month of October, 11 calls more than October 2019. These included 4 fire calls, 69 medical calls, several hazardous material calls, an elevator rescue call and a lost person call.

COVID related issues dominated the month. Five firefighters are currently out for quarantine with no positive cases. The Department participated in Town scheduled COVID testing on November 2nd. Department specific policies relating to travel, exposure and return to work were developed in response to revised CDC guidelines, in coordination with the Police Department and in line with Town-wide policies. The Town is exploring regular testing options for emergency responders. PPE inventory levels are being monitored.

Utility 6 is in service, Engine 4 is out of service and Car 1 is being repaired in advance of being traded in. The refurbishment versus the replacement of Truck 5 is being considered.

The State endorsed a particular type of firefighter foam. The Chief participated in core meetings during the month.

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

The fire officers worked to complete all unfinished reports, including storm reports.

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Facilities:

- i. Headquarters
 - 1. Hydrant - The hydrant replacement will be completed during the week of November 2nd.
 - 2. Kitchen Renovations – Chief has been in contact with Town to get renovations completed soon. Dish sanitizer to be replaced with dishwasher.
- ii. Station 2
 - 1. Water Update - Town Engineer Smeriglio continues to lead this project with third party involvement.
 - 2. Facilities – Director of Public Works Chris Burney is waiting for a report from the First Selectmen before proceeding.

B. Personnel

- i. Deputy Chief - The hiring of the Deputy Chief was discussed in Executive Session.
- ii. Hiring new recruits - The consortium was used to put together a list of candidates and 12 were chosen for interviews. Interviews are being conducted and 3 candidates will be recommended to the Commission for interviews. The recruitment process is being discussed by the Chief and Sarah Taffel. A testing company will be chosen for ultimate review by the Union.
- iii. The Town and Union working on selecting a testing company for upcoming promotions.
- iv. Budget Analysis – Overall Department is pretty good but several items are being watched closely. Overtime presents as over budget, but partially due to vacation carry over that must be used by December 31st. Medical supplies (Covid) and repairs are being monitored.
- v. Changes being made regarding annual physicals due to COVID concerns.
- vi. Two firefighters certified as EMTs.

5. Old Business:

- A. Presentation to Former FC Ross Tartell – This was moved to the December meeting.

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6. New Business:

- A. Personnel Search Committee – Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to disband the Personnel Search Committee for the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief was added to the Agenda. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to disband the Personnel Search Committee for both was approved 2-0.

7. Public Comment: None.

- 8. Adjournment:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 18:51 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Casey Healy

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Fire Commission

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