



WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2020 HELD VIA TELE-CONFERENCE

Present: Commissioners J. Casey Healy, Terrie Schwartz and John Hall.

Others: Chief Jim Blanchfield, Fire Marshal Rocco Grosso and Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations and Administrative Services Sarah Taffel.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at approximately 5:01 P.M.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the Fire Commission's November 17th and November 24th Special Meetings were approved 3-0.
3. **Monthly Reports:**

A. Fire Chief: Chief Blanchfield reported that there is one firefighter out for possible exposure to COVID. The Department further revised policies regarding COVID, including the mandatory wearing of masks throughout the building during shift changes. Various testing options are being researched. A 21-day testing schedule would be ideal. The Department is working with the Health Department and the Town to determine when and how the vaccine will be administered, if and when it becomes available.

Most outside meetings were cancelled or held electronically. Internal meetings with, among others, Department Heads and Director Taffel are ongoing. The Chief had meetings regarding the gas and water line project on New Canaan Road. Looking forward, the Department hopes to have hydrants installed for all new road projects in Town. There is currently 30% hydrant coverage in Wilton.

There will be a meeting with Norcon regarding the possibility of migrating the Town radio system to a state network to provide the opportunity for additional channels as opposed to the existing single channel. This would require a \$2 million upgrade to the Town's towers and would be a significant upgrade to the Town's capabilities.

The Lovers Lane and Arrowhead Road bridges are to be replaced in 2021. Proposed temporary bridge plans will be reviewed by the Department. During the

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month, the price of oxygen bottles was successfully renegotiated and the City Carting Agreement was renewed.

A number of equipment inspections took place, including those of air packs and hose. Only five reports remain unfinished for November. The Department is moving toward a digital inventory system on the rigs. A new company was chosen to perform physicals for the Department.

Two additional firefighters obtained EMS certification. Cold-water rescue training and chain saw safety and use training were completed by the Department.

B. Fire Marshal: There were no questions concerning the Fire Marshal's Report.

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Facilities:

- i. Headquarters –
 - 1. Hydrant - The hydrant was replaced and moved.
 - 2. Kitchen – The Chief will meet with Director Burney on December 4th and hopes to report further progress at the January meeting.
- ii. Station 2
 - 1. Water Supply – The Chief is cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the easement discussion meeting he plans to attend with the neighbors, possibly to be held later this month.
 - 2. Renovation – Other issues will be promptly addressed following the resolution of the water issue.

B. Personnel:

- i. Promotional Process – There is currently a Captain opening now which could lead to a Lieutenant opening. The Chief is researching alternate agencies to administer the promotional tests and hopes to report in January that the 2-month process has begun.

5. New Business

A. Election of Officers – Upon motions duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to elect Mr. Healy as Chairman, Ms. Schwartz as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Hall as Secretary.

B. Adoption of Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2021 – Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt a 2021 meeting schedule of 5:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in 2021.

6. Public Comment: None.

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7. **Adjournment:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Casey Healy

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Fire Commission

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