



## WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2021 HELD VIA TELE-CONFERENCE

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

**Others:** Chief Jim Blanchfield, Fire Marshal Rocco Grosso, First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Selectman Ross Tartell and Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations and Administrative Services Sarah Taffel.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at approximately 1700 hours.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the Fire Commission's December 2, 2020 regular meeting were approved 3-0.
3. **Monthly Reports:**

- A. **Fire Chief:** The Commissioners discussed the Chief's Report for the month of December 2020. Chief Blanchfield reported call volume was slightly lower than the previous year. Calls included a home boiler explosion and two small fires. There was a discussion regarding the very low volume of false alarms at the schools that are received by the Department.

The Department currently has no one out with COVID and all personnel continue to wear the requisite PPE when in contact with COVID patients. PPE levels are stable. Emergency responders received their first vaccinations and second vaccinations are being scheduled. The Health Department is preparing to go forward with a clinic for critical infrastructure employees, perhaps the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Blanchfield will submit a draft budget proposal soon, for discussion next month. The Library reading program continues. The Department will participate in mandatory sexual harassment prevention training in February, as will all Town departments. Engine 1 sustained minor damage in the amount of \$12,000. The number of incomplete reports is very low. Work continues on the automation of inventory project. All annual physicals have been completed. Firehouse software changes regarding reporting, updating and support are forthcoming. Training highlights for the month included chimney fire response, EMS terrorism response, quarterly air-vac and high-level rescue. There was discussion regarding a program to provide the public with information relating to chimney fires.

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

**B. Fire Marshal:** There were no comments or questions concerning the Fire Marshal's Report. Selectwoman Vanderslice advised that any report to be discussed at a meeting should be posted with the meeting's agenda.

**4. Unfinished Business:**

**A. Facilities:**

i. Headquarters –

1. Kitchen upgrade project – Selectwoman Vanderslice provided a detailed history of the project and discussed a proposal for professional-grade appliances as well as a hybrid proposal. The consensus is the hybrid project is the best solution and this will be sent out for RFP. As there is currently no public access to the building, the work may be done during June-December.

ii. Station 2

1. Water supply update – As this matter involves ongoing negotiations, it will be discussed at an Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen on January 19<sup>th</sup> which the Commissioners and Chief Blanchfield were invited to attend.
2. Facility renovation update – Once the water supply issue has been resolved, focus will turn to facility renovations.

**B. Personnel:** The new Deputy Chief and Firefighter Recruit are undergoing standard tests in advance of their January 25<sup>th</sup> start date. The Department is researching testing companies and components of the test for the vacant Captain position. The position will be posted the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>. Apparatus Supervisor Ricky Petrizzi has given notice; the job posting is being prepared.

**5. New Business:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a tuition reimbursement for Firefighter Bryan Montgomery.

**6. Public Comment:** Public comment regarding the pace of the kitchen renovation was received from Mr. Ken Walsh.

**7. Adjournment:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1749 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ J. Casey Healy*

J. Casey Healy  
Fire Commission

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