



WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2021 HELD VIA TELE-CONFERENCE

Present: Commissioners Terrie Schwartz and John Hall.

Others: Chief Jim Blanchfield, Deputy Chief John Plofkin, Captain Brian Elliott, Firefighter Dave Chaloux and Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations and Administrative Services Sarah Taffel.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at approximately 1710 hours.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the Fire Commission's February 3, 2021 regular meeting were approved 2-0.

3. **Monthly Reports:**

- A. **Fire Chief:** The Commissioners discussed the Chief's Report for the month of February 2021 which reported year-to-date calls are on pace with 2020.

COVID dominated the work being done by the Department which is doing a good job keeping up with supplies. Reports are positive regarding the on-boarding of Deputy Chief Plofkin and Firefighter Traycheff. Chief Blanchfield participated in calls and meetings regarding COVID, possible new reporting/scheduling programs, the new radio system, health and safety matters, and apparatus vendors. Discussions with Norwalk Hospital took place regarding document retention and refusals by Wilton residents of transport by ambulance to Norwalk Hospital. The Commission discussed this issue in detail.

The Chief provided an update on apparatus and equipment matters. The Department is keeping up with routine and minor maintenance repairs in addition to repairs to Engine 1, Engine 2 and staff cars.

There have been four responses to the Apparatus Supervisor job posting. The Chief is hoping to schedule interviews in late March and to submit the candidates to the Commission for consideration in April.

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

The Captain promotional process is ongoing. Six candidates have responded. It is expected written and oral exams will be given April 19th, 20th, and 21st.

The Chief reported that the first review of the budget went well. Capital expenditure items will be discussed by the Board of Selectmen in April.

The ESO process for the IT upgrade has been discontinued as it was determined this \$4,000 annual additional expense was not in the best interest of the Department.

The Deputy Chief has undertaken special projects including the possible purchase of carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide meters for use by the Fire Marshal's office and the implementation of a distress signal to assist responders in potential danger. He has met individually with each Captain and Lieutenant in the Department and will establish training programs for each month to ensure standardized training across the board.

Training for the month included trauma head and neck training, hazmat/metering and vehicle stabilization during accidents.

B. Fire Marshal: There was a brief discussion concerning the process of clearing violations contained in the Fire Marshal's Report.

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Facilities:

- i. Headquarters –
 1. Kitchen upgrade project – Department of Public Works and Facilities Director Burney expects to approve the request for bid in early March. There should be good progress made on this project in March.
- ii. Station 2
 1. Alternatives are being investigated including i) approval from the State and agreement from the across-the-street neighbor for a well; or ii) for new tanks and on-site capabilities.

5. New Business: The Commission discussed at length a request presented by Firefighter Dave Chaloux for bulk approval of the carryover of up to 84 hours of vacation leave to January 1, 2022. The Commission will further discuss this at the next meeting but advised it is leaning toward considering requests for carryover leave only on an individual request basis.

6. Public Comment: None.

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

- 7. Adjournment:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1825 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Casey Healy

J. Casey Healy
Fire Commission

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