



WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2021 HELD VIA TELE-CONFERENCE

Present: Commissioners Terrie Schwartz and John Hall.

Others: Chief Jim Blanchfield, Deputy Chief John Plofkin, 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 5:04 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the Fire Commission's Special Meeting held on July 13, 2021 and the Special Meeting - Executive Session and Special Meeting held on July 28, 2021 were approved 2-0.
3. **Monthly Reports:**
 - A. **Fire Marshal:** There were no comments or questions regarding the Fire Marshal's Report.
 - B. **Deputy Chief:** July training sessions included foam and stand-by operations. The buildings at 10 and 20 Westport Road were used for practical bailout training. EMS sessions included patient assessment and skills training for gunshot wounds and cardiac events. Chief Blanchfield and Deputy Chief Plofkin presented a program to CERT members from 10 regional towns. There were approximately 40 participants for each of the 2 sessions. A calendar for weekly EMS training at Norwalk Hospital was approved. Fire Marshal Grosso and Deputy Chief Plofkin attended the Fairfield Fire School for fire extinguisher training. Presentations were made to 23 employees of the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works. Outreach to the Board of Education will follow. Elevator training has been scheduled for November.

Health and Safety issues involved the replacement of damaged self-contained breathing apparatus and the fit testing machine shared with the Town of Weston. Signal 99 protocols should be implemented soon. An upgrade to the speaker system in the Truck Room is being investigated. Aquarion will repair a damaged hydrant. Further investigation into Aquarion's responsibilities for hydrants will be

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undertaken. The new Inventory Management System for asset tracking and cost analysis will be implemented soon.

C. Apparatus Supervisor's Report: The Report will be reviewed next month.

D. Fire Chief: July calls were up significantly to nearly 200 with year-to-date calls up 140. This was expected since calls were depressed last year due to COVID. Wilton's COVID policies are changing and there likely will be changes made in August to response protocols, employee travel policies, exposure protocols, masks, etc. Meetings were held to resolve outstanding budget issues from the prior year and to discuss the state hiring consortium in which Wilton participates. There was a spirited Department overview discussion during the quarterly fire officer meeting.

The Truck 5 Replacement Committee conducted a survey regarding features to be available on the new truck. The Car 1 replacement is now in the Department's possession and is being outfitted.

Testing agency options for the vacant Lieutenant position are being discussed with the Union. Test dates, most likely in November, will be scheduled by the next meeting. Special projects include the filing of incomplete reports, working through the inventory system and awaiting the report of Wilton's needs for the Town-wide radio system. Department apparatus was included in the Chamber of Commerce Street Fair this year.

4. Unfinished Business: The Town is likely going in a different direction than the bid process in that the Headquarters kitchen renovation is a repair process. Chief Blanchfield noted the firefighters will make it work if the kitchen is unavailable for some period of time for repairs. Chief Blanchfield hopes to have more information next month regarding issues at Station 2.

5. New Business: The Local will participate in the 9/11 Ceremony again this year. The 9/11 United Ride will originate at Sherwood Island. The Department plans to participate when plans are final. Efficiencies realized by the Department as a result of COVID-related practices were discussed.

6. Public Comment: None. .

7. Adjournment: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Casey Healy

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Fire Commission

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