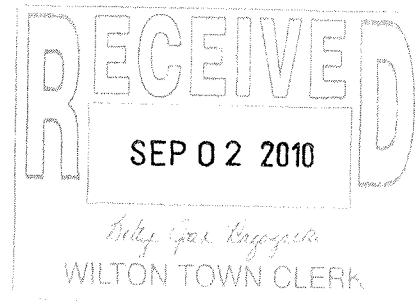




Fire Commission
236 DANBURY ROAD
WILTON, CONNECTICUT



Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
Fire Department Headquarters

April 7, 2010

Present: Commissioners Richard McCarty, Gary Mecozzi and J. Casey Healy

Others: Chief Paul Milositz, Deputy Chief Mark Amatrudo and Firefighter Glenn Johnson.

A. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: The meeting was called to order at approximately 1830 hours. **A MOTION** was made by Commissioner Mecozzi to approve the minutes of the Commission's regular meeting held on February 3, 2010, which motion was seconded by Chairman McCarty and unanimously approved.

B. Review of Monthly Reports

1. Chief's Report – Chief Milositz read a letter into the record from Captain Czarnecki to the Chief and Wilton Police Chief Mike Lombardo advising that Police Officers Tim Fridinger and Paul Lichtenberger and Firefighters Pat Garber and Bill Wilson had completed all requirements in order to be considered fully operational members of the Wilton Dive Rescue team; the letter also extended a special thanks to Wilton Police Lt. Steve Brennan for his assistance with the certifications. Chief Milositz also read a letter into the record from Elizabeth Lambert thanking Lieutenant Greg Kitek and Firefighter Johnson for delivering her baby at her Wilton residence after her labor progressed so quickly that she did not have time to get to the birthing center.
2. Deputy Chief's Report – The Commission reviewed the Deputy Chief's Monthly Report dated April 5, 2010. The Report noted that there were a total of 174 calls for the month of March (Fire and Alarm – 31; EMS Calls – 56 and All Other Calls – 87) bringing the call total for the year to 384 (Fire and Alarm – 70; EMS Calls – 162 and All Other Calls – 152). This significant increase in the calls for the month was due to 46 storm and flooding related calls during the periods March 13th through March 15th and March 29th through March 31st. The significant incidents during the month were: (i) March 13th – power line down and smoke in the residence at 207 Old Boston Road; (ii) March 14th – Mutual aid to cover Ridgefield Fire Headquarters while the Ridgefield Fire Department fought a structure fire; (iii) March 13th to 15th and 29th to 31st – 46 storm and/or flooding related calls were responded to, including, assistance with significant water and flooding issues at the Wilton Library and (iv) March 26th – Lieutenant Kitik and Firefighter Johnson delivered as noted above.

A total of approximately 265 hours of training were input during the month, including: (i) classroom training from the Connecticut Fire Academy on training objectives for company

drills; (ii) wild land and brush fire training from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; and, (iii) Standard EMS training.

Firehouse Software – The Apparatus and Equipment Repairs and Inventories module has been implemented. The CAD software that is needed from EmergiTech to interface with the Firehouse software has been included in the budget for fiscal year 2011 but may be purchased earlier if funds are available.

The Department continues to monitor the performance of the EmergiTech mobile software. The Department's software correction will be field tested in early March and the updated software with the system correction will be received around March 15, 2010. It appears that EmergiTech has repaired the problem that has prevented the Fire Department from going "live" with its Mobile Data Terminals ("MDTs"). Although the MDTs often work correctly, the remaining dependability problems with the EmergiTech software continue to prevent the Department from going "live" with the MDTs.

Facilities - The Department is in the process of obtaining price estimates for a tankless propane water heater that is more efficient and will occupy less space. As in prior years, any remaining funds in the Building Repairs Account will be used to make (non-critical) repairs to Headquarters and Station 2 that were postponed during the year.

The Department continues to analyze spending for the current fiscal year and remains within budgetary spending limits; including shift coverage/overtime spending. The Department received notification from the Chief Financial Officer that the Town's revenues are not at the levels necessary to support the Town's budgeted expenses for the current year and that every Department is being encouraged to make every effort to reduce spending. There were no specific directives or spending controls implemented but it appears that the Selectmen's Budget may be cut by \$500,000.

3. Apparatus Supervisor's Report - The Commission reviewed the Apparatus Supervisor's Monthly Report for March 2010, which Report noted that Truck 5 was out of service for seven (7) days for its annual All-Steer maintenance and for a warranty repair of paint bubbling on the rear access panel. The Report also noted that four hours were spent on repairs and maintenance of Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps. vehicles.
4. Dive Team Report – The Commission reviewed the Dive Team Report dated March 2010.
5. HazMat Team – The Commission reviewed the HazMat Team Report dated March 2010.
6. Fire Marshal's Report – The Commission reviewed the Fire Marshal's March Report. The Report noted that Fire Marshal Kohn and Fire Inspector Grosso participated in the annual Kids Fest on March 28th at the Wilton High School Fieldhouse.

C. Old Business

1. Traffic Light at intersection of Station 1 driveway and US Route 7 – The traffic light serving Station 1 does not activate for the Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps. ("WVAC"). In response to the Fire Department's request that an automatic activation device be added to the light as part of the Route 7 widening project, the Connecticut Department of Transportation

is considering paying for a “preemptive device” that would trip for Fire Department and WVAC vehicles on emergency responses.

2. Gift Fund – The Commission reviewed the Gift Fund Report for Fiscal Year 2009 which reported a fund balance of \$9,045.00.
3. Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 – The Board of Finance is scheduled to meet on April 7th and set the mill rate. The Board is expected to reduce the proposed budget by \$1,700,000 (\$500,000 reduction to the Board of Selectmen’s budget and \$1,200,000 deduction to the Board of Education budget) in order to achieve a mill rate increase of 3.1%. The impact to Fire Department’s budget is unknown as of this date. The Town is holding discussions with all four labor unions including the Firefighters union regarding a postponement of wage and benefit increases. In the event that all Town employees accepted such a postponement, the reduction to the budget would be approximately \$386,000. Chief Milositz reported that First Selectman Brennan has been pleased with Wilton Firefighters Union response to his request.

D. New Business

1. Update on Response to Storm Related incidents – Chief Milositz briefed the Commission on the Department’s response.
2. Recognition to Lieutenant Kitek and Firefighter Johnson – Chief Milositz reported that the Department would hold a ceremony prior to the Commission’s next meeting on May 5, 2010, to recognize Lt. Kitek’s and Firefighter Johnson’s efforts in delivering the Lamberts’ baby. The Chief noted that the Lambert family would like to participate in the ceremony.

E. Public Comments

1. Dispatch - Lt. Michelsen noted that dispatch problems continue. The Chief reported that at the next Dispatch Committee meeting, the Committee likely will discuss the possibility of outsourcing the dispatch of Fire Department and emergency medical services calls. The Committee also will review a Homeland Security grant program for regional dispatch.

F. Adjournment: At approximately 1902 hours, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission will be held on May 5, 2010 at Fire Department Headquarters; said meeting will be a regular monthly meeting commencing at 1830 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Casey Healy
Secretary - Fire Commission