

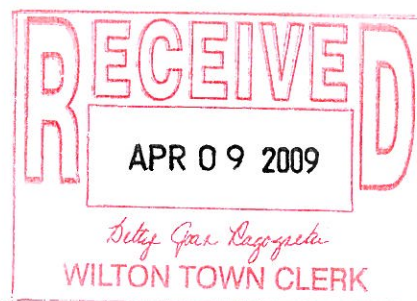


Fire Commission

236 DANBURY ROAD
WILTON, CONNECTICUT 06897

Minutes of Special Meeting Fire Department Headquarters

March 12, 2009



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

Others: Chief Paul Milositz, Deputy Chief Mark Amatrudo, Captains Jim Gies and Karl Dolnier and Firefighters Mike Pryor, Gary Fuoco, Joe Bisenius and Jeff Locher.

A. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: The meeting was called to order at approximately 1830 hours. Chairman McCarty extended the Commission's condolences to the families of those who lost their lives at the structure fire that occurred on February 21st at the Village Walk Condominiums. Chairman McCarty also commended the firefighters who responded to the fire, noting the rescue of one victim who later died at Norwalk Hospital and the quick extinguishment which limited the damage to other units. **A MOTION** was made by Chairman McCarty to approve the minutes of the Commission's regular monthly meeting held on February 5, 2009 which motion, was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and unanimously approved.

B. Review of Monthly Reports

1. Chief's Report – The Commission reviewed the Certificate of Appreciation received from the Wilton Trackside Teen Center for the longstanding support and exemplary service provided to the Wilton Community by the Department.

Chief Milositz reported to the Commission that John Haase III's request for accelerated rehabilitation for failure to follow an officer's order (Firefighter Sampson's) had been reluctantly granted by the Superior Court notwithstanding the opposition thereto voiced by the Chief, Deputy Chief Amatrudo and Town Counsel G. Kenneth Bernhard on the grounds that Mr. Haase's failure to obey Firefighter Sampson's direction was not a mistake and was done with malicious intent. The Superior Court Judge noted his support for the Fire Department in performance of their duty and he chastised Mr. Haase; giving him 100 hours of community service and 2 years probation (the maximum probation permitted under the law).

The Chief advised the Commission that he will be in Emmetsburg, MD May 11th through May 15th assisting with peer review of fire grant requests.

Chief Milositz reported to the Commission that the Department's Awards Committee made up of the Chief, Commissioner Mecozzi and Firefighter Brad Carlson met on March 4th to consider Captain Czarnecki's request that the responders to the January 28, 2009 fatal motor vehicle accident that occurred on Westport Road in the vicinity of Dudley Road be awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation. The Committee unanimously voted to table its decision on that request pending the Commission's decision regarding whether to add a "Commendation Ribbon" to the list of Departmental awards. The Committee also considered Deputy Chief Amatrudo's recommendation that Acting Captain and incident commander Lieutenant Lou Iannacone, Captain Karl Dolnier, Acting Lieutenant Tom Coon and Firefighters Joseph Bisenius, Gary Fuoco, Dan Lewis and Bill Wilson be awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation for their actions on February 21st at the fatal fire at Village Walk. The Committee reviewed all documentation presented and after discussion of the incident found that the actions of the nominees met the requirements for the award and voted unanimously to award the Meritorious Unit Citation to the nominees. An awards ceremony will be scheduled in due course to present the Citation.

2. Deputy Chief's Report – The Commission reviewed the Deputy Chief's Monthly Report dated March 4, 2009. The Report noted that there were a total of 110 calls for the month of February (Fire and Alarm – 30; EMS Calls – 57 and All Other Calls – 23) bringing the call total for the year to 263 (Fire and Alarm – 76; EMS Calls – 136 and All Other Calls – 51). There were three significant incidents during the month: (i) February 3rd – rollover motor vehicle accident requiring extrication of one victim on Danbury Road at the intersection of Scribner Hill Road; (ii) February 17th – structure fire (fire in the wall) at 559 Danbury Road where the Department responded with the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department and (iii) February 21st – fatal structure fire at the Village Walk Condominiums.

A total of 357 hours of training were input during the month. Additional training consisted of: (i) Haz-Mat Operational level refresher training; (ii) completion of the refresher training of all apparatus drivers on Truck 5 and its All-Steer features; (iii) review of the Risk/Benefit decision process of entering various types of building fires and (iv) post incident reviews of the Village Walk fire for all shifts.

Final discussions regarding the purchase of the Firehouse Software took place with the vendor. The Department was able to secure a \$4,000 reduction to the software cost.

The Deputy Chief reported that both Station 1 and Station 2 underwent facility reviews by the Town's and the Department's Safety Committees during February. The Committees will produce a summary of the reviews and recommendations for corrective actions.

The underground fuel tank that served the Department's previous emergency generator was removed. There was evidence of leaking in the tank grave and remediation is in the process of being scheduled. The new generator is served by an above-ground tank that is located in the generator room.

The Department has not received notification of any cuts to the 2010 budget.

The Commission reviewed the Apparatus Supervisor's monthly report for February, 2009, which report noted that Truck 5 was out of service for four days undergoing its annual All-

Steer maintenance. The Report also noted that all self-contained breathing apparatus were flow tested during the month.

3. Fire Marshal's Report – The Commission reviewed without comment the Fire Marshal's Monthly Report dated February 2009. The Report noted that the cause of the fire at Village Walk is undetermined at this time; the investigation is continuing.

C. Old Business

1. Draft Report on Communications and Dispatch. The review of the Report was tabled.

D. New Business:

1. Proposed Amendment to Departmental Awards. Chief Milositz reported that the Awards Committee recommended that a Commendation Ribbon be added to the Department's Recognition Program, which Ribbon would be awarded for achievements, accomplishments or acts that have a significant positive impact on the Wilton community, the firefighter's home community, or other communities as deemed appropriate by the Awards Committee. The Chief advised the Commission that the Commendation Ribbon shall be worn on the recipient's Class A uniform for a period of not more than two (2) years from the date the Ribbon is awarded. **A Motion** was made by Chairman McCarty to add the Commendation Ribbon to the Meritorious Recognition Program, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Mecozzi and unanimously approved 3-0. Thereafter, the Chief was authorized to revise the Meritorious Recognition Program to ensure that the description of medals mirror their actual description (medals were designed and purchased after Program was adopted).

- E. Adjournment:** At approximately 1914 hours, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission will be held on April 7, 2009 at Fire Department Headquarters; said meeting will be a regular monthly meeting commencing at 1830 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Casey Healy
Secretary - Fire Commission