



## WILTON FIRE COMMISSION

MEETING ROOM B – WILTON TOWN HALL  
238 DANBURY ROAD  
Wilton, CT

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2019 DEC 23 P 4: 22  
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Minutes of December 4, 2019

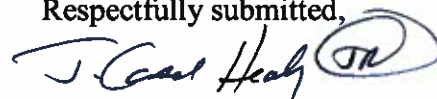
### Fire Commission Monthly Meeting

- Present:** Commissioners J. Casey Healy and Christopher Weldon (by telephone).
- Others:** Chief Geoff Herald, Firefighters Dave Chaloux, Mike Blatchley and Gary Mandel, Director of Human Resources, Labor Relations and Administrative Services Sarah Taffel and First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice.
- A. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at approximately 1750 hours.
- B. Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the Fire Commission's November 6, 2019 regular meeting and November 27, 2019 special meeting were approved unanimously.
- C. Monthly Reports:**
- (i) **Chief's Report:** The Commission reviewed and discussed the Chief's Report dated 4 December 2019.
  - (ii) **Fire Marshal's Report:** The Commission reviewed the Fire Marshal's Activity Report dated November 2019.
- D. Old Business:**
- (i) **Status of Repair of Kitchen at Fire Headquarters:** Chief Herald reported that several meetings have been held between including Firefighters Chaloux, Pryor & Scarpetti, First Selectwoman Vanderslice, the Chief and others regarding the repair of the kitchen at Fire Headquarters and Firefighter Chaloux. An upcoming meeting will include an owner and operator of several restaurants and a kitchen design professional.
- E. New Business:**

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

- (i) **Purchase of Replacement Engine:** Chief Herald reported that there is a Pierce demonstration engine with 1000 gallon water tank located in Connecticut. Chief Herald recommended purchasing the engine if funds are available; noting that the demonstration engine had been inspected by Apparatus Supervisor Petruzzi, several officers and the Chief and was found to be compatible to replace existing Engine 2 at Station 2; thereby providing an engine with a 1000 gallon water tank in lieu of a 750 gallon water tank in District 2. Engine 2 and Engine 3 are in the Town's capital budget to be replaced in 2022. The refurbishment of Engine 2 was investigated and determined to not be financially prudent. First Selectwoman Vanderslice advised that the funds to purchase the Pierce engine may be available under the Town's Charter authority. Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approvals will be required. It was the consensus of the Commission to seek approval of the funding. If the purchase is approved, Engine 3 would be sold, Engine 2 would become Engine 3 and the Pierce engine would become Engine 2 and housed at Station 2.
- (ii) **Extension of Interim Chief of the Fire Department Geoff Herald's Employment Contract to January 31, 2020:** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the extension of Chief Herald's employment contract to January 31, 2020 was approved unanimously.
- F. **Public Comment:** Firefighter Chaloux reported that the Pierce demonstration engine is not equipped with air bags; noting that the preference of the members of the Department is that the engine include air bags. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Healy, Chief Herald advised that air bags cannot be installed after an engine is constructed. Wilton Engines 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the 5 Truck are equipped with air bags. The air bags are not a standard feature of an engine or truck; they are an add on costing approximately \$18,000 to \$20,000 per apparatus. Chief Herald also advised that air bags are not required by the National Fire Protection Association. The Chief made a risk benefit assessment and concluded that the benefit of having an engine in District 2 with an additional 250 gallons of water outweighed the likelihood of an accident involving the Pierce engine in which the air bags would deploy if available. Also upon inquiry by Commissioner Healy, Firefighter Chaloux responded that to the best of his knowledge air bags have never deployed in any Wilton FD apparatus. First Selectwoman Vanderslice advised that she would speak to the Town's insurer.
- G. **Adjournment:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1835 hours,

Respectfully submitted,



J. Casey Healy  
Fire Commission

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