



# STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

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## Minutes –Regular Meeting of the Stamford Fire Commission held March 9, 2021 (via Zoom)

**Call to order:** 5:08pm

**Attendees:** Commissioners Holmes, Hubbard, Alswanger; Chief Roach, AC Robles, AC Morris;

**Public Comment:** N/A

### Chief's Report:

Chief Roach stated that the department has held steady since the last meeting, the department is approximately 80% Covid-19 vaccinated and is coming out of the lull of Covid-19 and moving forward towards regular operations. Chief Roach stated that the Volunteer department is about 75-80% vaccinated. AC Morris stated that the Volunteer department has done well with the vaccines. The Chief is looking forward to the new probationary Firefighter class. The budget is out and the Operating is holding steady as well and the capital budget will cover the \$ 1.2 million apparatus for the Westside.

Discussion took place related to the Firefighter personnel hiring. The department will move ahead once the approval process to hire is completed. The department expects there to be two to three days of interviewing. The academy would be a 13-14 weeks. Chief Roach stated that he would like the interviews to be in person with the Commissioners who wish to attend in person and any Commissioner who would like to would be able to join via Zoom. Commission Holmes inquired if the interview process was cleared with the City's Human Resources Department. Chief Roach stated he will discuss the process with Human Resources. The Chief feels it is very important to have the Chief's interview in person. Commissioner Alswanger agrees with the in person however concerns are spatial

### Personnel Issues:

**Motion:** By motion made by Commission Alswanger and seconded by Commissioner Hubbard the Commission and approved by all (3 in favor, 1 absent), the Commission moved into Executive session at 5:13pm. The Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:28pm. No action was taken in Executive session.

**New Business:** Chief Roach stated that there is no new business on this agenda however on the next meeting agenda there will be an SOG on water supply which will be City wide guideline.

### Update on Consolidation:

AC Morris reported that the Firefighter II class starting in April 2021. All passed the Firefighter I class and they hopefully will move on to the Firefighter II class. They hope to will hold Safety Officer followed by Training Officer and then Officer 1, and so on. AC Morris stated that the Belltown Fire Department is very happy and appreciative about the new unit. Commissioner Holmes inquired as to if the Chief Officers have met the training requirement outlined previously. AC Morris stated that most have met the Officer 1 requirements and some have become Officer 3, outside of one legacy member in Belltown. Chief Morris stated noted that the Command structure at fires works, there is a unified Command at Fire scenes, and have no issues at Fires. Commissioner Hubbard questioned if training has taken place that would have addressed the concerns previously noted about working together, etc. were addressed. Chief Roach stated that the Deputy Chiefs & he meet monthly and they meet with Crews and discuss/address items that come up, the departments train together as well which has brought the Department to much more of a single department than it has ever been. Discussion took place.

## FIRE COMMISSION CONTINUED

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Commissioner Alswanger asked that if, during the pandemic, did he, AC Morris, see any change in interest to be a Volunteer. AC Morris stated that due to Covid-19 that most department were kept mostly to their members. Commissioner Holmes mentioned that after Covid-19 the Commission will start the visiting to the department Stations, Volunteer & Career. Chief Roach agreed.

Commissioner Holmes inquired as to if the department tracks Covid-19 cases within the department. AC Robles responded that the department does. Commissioner Hubbard asked if there was resistance to the vaccine within the Department and the Chief stated that there was but it has lessened and they hope that all members receive the vaccine. Commissioner Holmes asked if masks are required in the Department and the Chief replied yes. Additionally, AC Robles stated that members' temperatures are taken on the way in and out of the stations. Discussion took place.

Commissioner Alswanger inquired as to AC Robles thoughts on the new ERP as a committee member and if the Fire Departments needs are being met.

AC Robles stated that he felt there are so many good software out there and they narrowed it down to 4 and the committee will meet and review to select the Company that fits the City's needs the best.

**Minutes:** By motion duly made by Commissioner Alswanger and seconded by Commissioner Hubbard and approved by all (3 in favor, 1 absent), the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting were approved.

**Adjournment:** By motion duly made the Commission moved to adjourn at 5:50pm.