



STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

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Gregory Lodato

Draft Minutes -Regular Meeting of the Fire Commission held March 10, 2015

Call to order: Commissioner Melzer called the meeting to order at 5:08pm

Roll Call: Present: Commissioner's Melzer, Lyons, & Holmes; AC Roach, AC Morris; Commissioners Lodato & Hubbard & Director Jankowski arrived during the meeting. Absent: Chief Brown; Public Attendance: There was public attendance

Public Comment: n/a

Chairman Melzer asked the Commission to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Melzer asked the Commission to remain standing for a moment of silence to honor those who serve our Country.

Chief's Report: A/C Roach gave the Chief's report on the following items:

- Incidents: There were no structure fires. Most of the calls were mostly water calls and frozen pipes.
- Apparatus: Belltown rig is expected in April. The Sutphen is back in town and should be ready around March 25, the new Engine should be end of June.

Budget: A/Chief Roach reported the Capital budget went okay. The big project for the department will be related to the replacement of Air paks.

Personnel: A/Chief Roach reported that sick time went up in the past to weeks and is now going down. A/Chief Roach stated he thought there was a bout of flu in the department. Commissioner Lyons asked about injuries and A/Chief Roach stated that there were some slips & falls due to weather conditions.

New Business: Commissioner Melzer asked the Commission if anyone read the article in the NY Times on firefighter cause of death relation to fitness and grip strength. The Commission inquired if the department had a fitness program. Chief Roach stated that just about all the facilities have equipment in place. Commissioner Lyons asked if the fitness program was in place. Chief Roach stated the career side has a fitness program. Commissioner Lyons expressed that a health & fitness program should be department wide and asked Chief Roach to look into it. Nutrition was also mentioned. Discussion took place.

Update on consolidation: A/Chief Roach asked A/Chief Morris to present the update. A/Chief Morris stated that progress is being made with the move of Engine 8 & 9. A trailer has been set up in the back of TOR Station 2 and an awning will be put in place. The utilities for electric and water are being set up. There is a dumpster set up for clean up. The gear room is being painted. The phones are being addressed. The logistics of the project are moving along rapidly. The move into TOR Station 2 is expected to happen in the end of next week and Station 1 at the end of March. Turn of River has been cooperating and the Captains at Engine 8 & 9 have been very helpful.

A/Chief Morris stated that training is ongoing in the departments. A/Chief Morris went on to say the Volunteer recruitment is going on and that training of volunteer recruits happens every Thursday, rotating through the companies. Peter Cogliano and Peter Kakokis run the program. Discussion took place as to how the program operates. Commissioner Lyons stated that the Commission would support program.

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A/Chief Roach stated that the Regional Fire School is in peril and that funding for the school has been reduced to zero in the Governor's state budget. He asked the Commission for their support related to this as regional funds were used to defray the costs of training of the Volunteer firefighters and was a significant help. Commissioner Lyons stated that he would make some calls in support of regional funds for Stamford.

Minutes: Chairman Melzer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October, November, and December of 2014 and the January and February minutes of 2015. **Motion:** By motion duly made by Commissioner Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, and approved by all the minutes were approved.

Public Comment: At this time Chairman Melzer opened up the meeting to the public. Public comment included:

- the Tully Center offering the Volunteer departments the same pricing as the Career department for membership.
- How the recruitment program works as it relates to the recruitment of Stamford residents and inner-city areas.
- Ideas on how to entice volunteers to stay to retain them was discussed. Some of the ideas that were mentioned were:
 - give property tax breaks
 - choice of magnet school for children
 - free beach stickers
 - free golf permits
 - offered first choice to a job as career firefighter, lateral promotion or transfer
 - give more points on firefighter exam for being a volunteer.
 - would it be possible to offer assistance to individuals to defray the costs of training that individuals have to pay for out of pocket. Training keeps you involved and stimulated and may help to retain the individual.

Adjournment: After motion duly made the meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.

The next meeting will be held at the Turn of River Volunteer Station 1, 268 Turn of River Road.