



STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

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Constance Hubbard
Andrew Holmes
Gregory Lodato

Draft Minutes -Regular Meeting of the Fire Commission held April 14, 2015 at the Turn of River Fire Station #1, 268 Turn of River Road

Call to order: Commissioner Melzer called the meeting to order at 5:06pm

Roll Call: Present: Commissioner's Melzer, Holmes & Hubbard; Chief Brown, AC Morris, Director Jankowski; Director Emmett. Commissioners Lyons & Lodato arrived during the meeting.

Absent: AC Roach;

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.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Manka spoke on behalf of herself and her son, who was a candidate in the Firefighter Exam process, and expressed their disappointment and frustration regarding the exam process and the cancellation of the Firefighter interviews in short notice. Commission Melzer deferred to Kathryn Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs, who acknowledged Mrs. Manka and responded accordingly. Discussion took place.

Paul Newman spoke as a representative of the Stamford Professional Firefighters association regarding concerns as to the Charter changes and the slow progression of the implementation of said changes, the TOR Safer grant and the Firefighter exam process.

Chief's Report:

- Incidents: There were 1093 incidents of which 4 were structure fires. There were 552 EMS calls. Long Ridge Fire is still on their own reporting system.
- Apparatus: All front line apparatus are in service with the exception of Truck 1. There was a lot of minor electrical issues in apparatus due to the hard winter and road salt.
- Personnel: Two individuals requesting leave of absence.
- Budget: Overtime is expected to have a short fall, with the number of vacancies and funds from SAFER gran the salary account is expected to have a surplus which will be used to offset the overtime account. The overall budget is expected to be on tract or close to neutral.
- Training: EMS refresher training is finishing this month. Probationary firefighters needing the EMT seem to be progressing well.
- Engin 8 & 9 moved into TOR Station 1 and 2, April 1 and April 3 respectively. There has been good cooperation between the departments. AC Morris has been working with all on the move.

Personnel: Chief Brown stated that there are two requests for leave of absence.

1. Theodore Panagiotopoulos

2. Christopher Ward

Discussion took place. Commissioner Ladato asked that a resolution limiting terms of leave of absence be made. Commissioner Melzer suggested the item be under New Business

FIRE COMMISSION CONTINUED

Personnel (cont.)

Motion: Chairman Melzer asked for a motion granting a three month leave of absence to Theodore Panagiotopoulos. Commissioner Lodato moved the motion, motion was seconded by Commissioner Hubbard and approved by all. (4 in favor, 0 against, 1 absent)

Motion: Chairman Melzer asked for a motion granting a one month leave of absence to Christopher Ward. Commissioner Lyons moved the motion, motion was seconded by Commissioner Lodato and approved by all. (5 in favor, 0 against)

New Business: Commissioner Lodato asked the Commission to consider making a resolution to limit the Commission to granting of leave of absence for no longer than a thirty (30) day period with the right to consider a longer period based on extraordinary circumstances. Commissioner Melzer suggested to ask for an opinion of the Law Department. Kathryn Emmett stated that she would look into the matter and send an opinion. Chief Brown stated that he would get the current document(s) related to leave of absence to the Commission.

Update on consolidation: A/Chief Morris stated reiterated the Chief's comments with regard to the move of Engine 8 & 9 adding that the actual move took place within a week. Comments from firefighters are good from both sides related to the move.

A/Chief Morris stated that training is ongoing in the department with the recruits weekly. Approximately 20 recruits are involved and they are waiting for a go ahead with training for Firefighter 1. Ladder 45 is being worked on and is expected to be completed next month.

Minutes: Chairman Melzer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2015 meeting.

Motion: By motion duly made by Commissioner Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, and approved by all, the minutes were approved.

Public Comment: N/A

Adjournment: After motion duly made the meeting adjourned at 5:51pm.