



# STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

David R. Martin, Mayor

629 Main Street  
Stamford, CT 06901  
Tel (203)977-4673  
Fax (203)977-4658

Franklin Melzer  
Andrew Holmes  
Geoff Alswanger  
Constance Hubbard  
Gregory Lodato

DRAFT

---

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

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

**Attendees:** Commissioners Melzer, Holmes, Hubbard, Alswanger; Chief Roach, AC Robles, AC Morris; Kathryn Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs

**Moment of Silence**

**Public Comment:** N/A

### **Chief's Report:**

Chief Roach stated that in January there were 702 incidents. He stated while there may have been a slow-down in incidents that the past weekend was very busy with fires all happening around 2am as well as a water rescue at Cummings beach during the blizzard that has a successful outcome with no one hurt. Chief Roach stated he received a nice letter from the parents of one of the occupants thanking the department and that they were going to be stopping by the fire department as well to thank the firefighters.

A/Chief Robles stated that the operating budget is doing okay. A/C Robles stated that overtime was high. The department had many retirements in the past years and vacancies have not been filled. The department is looking to hire 10 new firefighters for a class in April 2021 & is hoping to have clearance to interview soon. Once approved by the Boards & the Mayor, the department will move at an accelerated pace with Commission. The new firefighters, if all approval to move forward is granted, will be on the line in July and offset overtime costs. In addition to retirements, Chief Roach stated that manpower has been used to stage as observation teams, freeing up nurses to focus on the vaccination process, at Lord & Taylor Covid-19 vaccine site and will also be staging at the Elmcroft vaccine site in the near future. This staffing has leaned heavy on manpower as well. It was asked how many firefighters have been vaccinated and Chief Roach stated that approximately 73% department wide, all who wanted were vaccinated. A/C Robles discussed the Capital budget stating that the department is looking to purchase apparatus to replace Truck 3. OPM is working with the department.

**Update on Consolidation:** Chief Morris stated that a new piece of apparatus, 2020 Marion Pumper will be online next month in Belltown Fire Department and that all are pleased with the apparatus. A/C Morris stated that the new service Tanker in Turn of River Fire Department has been in service for 5 months as well.

**Personnel Issues:** At the request of Kathryn Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs and agreed by Commission this item was taken up as "Update on pending Litigation. **Update on pending Litigation:** By motion duly made the Commission moved to go into Executive Session at 5:15pm to discuss pension litigation. By motion duly made the Commission moved to come out of Executive Session at 5:47pm. No action was taken in Executive Session.

**New Business:** Commissioner Alswanger stated post Covid-19 he would like to visit stations and introduce himself and to thank Firefighters. Chief Roach welcomed the idea, as did the rest of the Commission. Chief Roach stated he would issue an ID to Commissioner Alswanger. Commissioner Melzer stated that his ID expired and A/C Robles stated that new ID would be issued to all using the photos taken months back for ID's that were never issued.

**Minutes:** By motion duly made the June 9, 2020 minutes were approved. By motion duly made the December 8, 2020 minutes were approved as amended to include approval of 2021 meeting schedule.

**Adjournment:** By motion duly made the Commission moved to adjourn at 5:54pm.

---