



STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

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Minutes –Regular Meeting of the Stamford Fire Commission held January 15, 2020

Call to order: 5:16pm

Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence: Chairman Melzer asked that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in gratitude to all Uniformed personnel who have served and who serve our Nation and our Communities, and in remembrance for those who have lost their lives in said service.

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

Public Comment: N/A

Chief's Report: Chief Roach gave a brief outline of the year's incidents; the 10 new recruits will be done training in approximately 3 weeks and a "Swearing in Ceremony" shall be scheduled soon thereafter. The current budget is in fairly good shape for this fiscal year except the overtime which is high and the department will probably be going before the Boards for an additional appropriation. The recruit class does effect that overtime but the department budget request was cut by 700000 as well. The department order two new apparatus. One for Belltown Department, with Belltown paying for half and the City paying for the other half and the other for the City. Commissioner Holmes inquired as to who would own the apparatus going to Belltown. Chief Roach stated that the City would hold title. He stated that there is an agreement in place and it will be housed in Belltown but titled to the City, insured by the City and maintained by the City.

Budget: A/C Robles stated the department submitted the budget request for the upcoming fiscal year. There was an increase across the Volunteer departments, City side overtime, an expanded item for new RMS, training and for the vehicle maintenance with older vehicles. Overall there was a 2 to 3% increase, with overtime being the largest.

Commissioner Lodato inquired as to the Capital budget request. A/C Robles gave a summary stating there are requests for an apparatus to replace Truck 3, a contractual item of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Hydrants, repair of Glenbrook Fire Department roof with air-conditioning included, Station 4's bathrooms as they are very old (1950's). He stated other items were requested but that those items were cut immediately. Discussion took place. Commissioner Holmes inquired as to the mold remediation. Chief Roach stated that the mold remediation at Station 5 has been completed, with the roof being the last to do there and the department will have to go before the Boards for funds for the roof, there is \$80000 budgeted however the bids came in at about \$150000. Commissioner Alswanger asked if this was for the complete roof and is it a complete roof at Glenbrook as well and Chief Roach stated it was.

Commissioner Holmes asked if there were any other mold issues that the department was aware of and the Chief stated not that they are aware of but they are being addressed as they are discovered. Discussion took place.

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Commissioner Lodato asked if Glenbrook was a Volunteer department and the Chief said it was with a Career engine in there. Commissioner Lodato asked if the City is responsible for all the maintenance, Capital maintenance of the Volunteer stations and the Chief stated it was. Discussion took place.

Personnel Issues: There were no personnel issues. The Chief stated he expects retirements that will probably include Officers; there is no changes in the Lawsuit since last meeting; Commissioner Alswanger inquired as to when there may be new hires. Chief Roach stated that possibly in July but he will have a better idea then. Commissioner Hubbard inquired about the new candidates and if they all accepted the job offers. It was stated that they all did and they are expected to complete training around February 14. Commissioner Hubbard asked if the Commission would be able to observe the recruits in their training. Chief Roach stated to call his office and speak to him or AC Robles to arrange a time when they are doing training other than class work. Chairman Melzer inquired as to the new hires and if an exam have to be given. Chief Roach stated no exam would be necessary and that the current list is still in place. Discussion took place as to how many vacancies and/or promotions the department is potentially looking at.

Update on consolidation: AC Morris gave updates related to the Volunteer departments stating that 14 Volunteer Firefighters were in the Firefighter 1 course of which 10 completed course. This course was held two nights a week and on weekends and takes about 4 months to complete. The firefighters who completed the course will be put on the line and this shall increase the personnel numbers of the Volunteer departments, which are presently pretty good. AC Morris is working on getting individuals with longer service time more certifications to become Command Officers and with that, the Instructor 1 course was held as well as Officer 1 course and the Safety Officer course. As to apparatus, AC Morris stated that Turn of River used their funds to purchase a Tanker. Build and design specs were done through the Chiefs office. This apparatus has a 3000 gallon tank and 6 person cab and is able to operate as an Engine. Belltown also used their funds in the purchase of the new apparatus that will be housed at Belltown. AC Morris stated that the department raise funds by renting out space for events, turkey bingos and selling Christmas trees, etc. AC Morris stated that an older Belltown apparatus was given to the City to facilitate the purchase of the new apparatus. The Chief stated that the older apparatus shall be used as a reserve piece throughout the City if not placed in a front line position somewhere in another station.

Commissioner Melzer asked if there were any other questions for the Chief. Commissioner Lodato started a discussion related to the budget process for the Volunteer departments and the Capital improvements citywide. Question about the agreements between the City and Volunteer departments arose and how the Consolidation of the Fire service had addressed many items. It was agreed that the system in place is working and as issues arise they are addressed. Discussion continued.

Minutes: The previous 2019 minutes will be reviewed by the Commission and taken up at the next meeting.

Adjournment: By motion duly made the Commission moved to adjourn at 5:46 pm.