



# STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

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Franklin Melzer  
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Andrew Holmes  
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## Minutes -Regular Meeting of the Stamford Fire Commission held February 13, 2018

**Call to order:** 5:09 pm

**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, Holmes, Lodato, & Hubbard; Chief Roach, AC Robles & AC Morris; Volunteer Fire Chiefs Didelot (Belltown), Fahan (Springdale) & Teitelbaum (Long Ridge), AC Maounis (Turn of River)

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Motion:** By motion duly made by Commissioner Lodato, seconded by Commissioner Holmes and approved by all, the Commission moved to take Item 7, New Business, out of order.

**New Business:** Three (3) directives were presented to the Commission by Chief Roach for approval:

1. NIFIRS Reporting Directive:

Commissioner Melzer asked if there was any comment or discussion. AC Maounis asked that this directive be tabled as he believes it is in conflict with the Agreement whereas the FDID should be TOR as opposed to the City FDID. Additionally, that Engine 8 & 9 count as TOR reports not the Stamford Fire. He stated that they met with the City and was at an impasse on the reporting item. AC Morris would like to have someone present with the Agreement to see if there is a conflict between the two. The Chief stated there was no conflict. Discussion took place. It was discussed that mediation take place with the Commission and invite TOR counsel and the City's counsel, Ms. Emmett.

**Motion:** By motion duly made by Commissioner Lodato, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, the Commission moved to table the "NIFIRS Reporting Directive" until the next meeting, where there may be a hearing on mediation of the issue.

2. Command Qualifications Directive:

Commissioner Melzer asked if there was any comment or discussion. Chief Teitelbaum questioned if this is in violation of the Charter. Items of concern by all Volunteer Chiefs were that it seems to conflict with the chain of command and the timing allotted to complete the standards and the level of the standards as outlined needed for each type of incident. Chief Roach stated that he did not see it as in violation of the Charter as it mandates the Chief to set standards; that there was multiple opportunities to participate in training that was offered to the Volunteer Chief's for the standards outlined; that the standards are outlined by the NFPA and that is what the department uses as their guidelines and standards. Discussion took place. It was agreed by all to extend the time to complete the required training; that all parties are in agreement that there should be the same standards across the department and that all

were willing to raise the bar and step up; and that it is important to have standards for the utmost safety of all concerned. There was also agreement to have Command training take place.

**Motion:** By motion duly made by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Lodato, and approved by all, the Commission moved to approve the “Command Qualification Directive” with the amendment extending the date for the Volunteer department(s) to complete the Fire Officer 1 requirement from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 and the date to complete Fire Officer 2 requirements from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

3. Code of Conduct/Ethics Directive:

Commissioner Melzer asked if there was any comment or discussion. Chief Teitelbaum questioned if this is retroactive. Chief Roach stated it is not. Discussion took place as to the Volunteer departments handling the discipline, if any, of their personnel; would violation of policy apply in promotions; what was the mechanism if someone is brought up on charges, and that some Volunteer contracts state that the individual department disciplines the individuals. Commissioner Melzer stated that the Commission move to pass the Directive and added that subject to implementation and proper administration of complaints, for both Career Firefighters and Volunteer Firefighters, and allow the Law Department to set it up in accordance with the Volunteer contracts and the Charter. This would allow for some sort of “Code of Conduct” to be in place, and the enforcement of it become later when the Commission determines a mechanism for it. It was requested by AC Maounis that sexual harassment training take place as well.

**Motion:** By motion duly made by Commissioner Lodato, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, and approved by all, the Commission moved to approve the “Code of Conduct/Ethics Directive”, with Ethics training to occur within a reasonable time thereafter.

**Personnel Issues:** N/A

**Chief Report:**

- Incidents: 910 total incidents; 32 fire Incidents – 8 Structure fires; 475 EMS incidents
- Budget: This years is expected to be very tight. Unexpected pressure on overtime due to outbreak of flu.
- Apparatus: The department apparatus is aging. Calls are taking its toll on apparatus as well.
  - The Department/City, as a result of the Springdale arbitration, owes the Springdale Volunteer department an apparatus that is less than 25 years old and E15 is being reconfigured and will be given to Springdale for its use, with the City retaining title.
- Personnel:
  - Deputy Fire Marshal written exam in three weeks. Hopefully at the end of March the Commission will meet for interviews and promotion. Commissioner Holmes asked if there has been any talk about increasing the amount of personnel in the Fire Marshal office. The Chief stated they have requested 2 additional positions and additional funding to have overtime to allow for additional inspections.
    - Commissioner Holmes asked if the Commission will be given a briefing from HR on the new testing. The Chief stated he will contact Ms. Emmett to get the timing on it. Commissioner Melzer wanted to make sure the department inquired as to the availability of Ms. Emmett to review the test results and how they are established.
  - The rehired firefighter is now on the line and doing well.
  - Department physicals started at 8am this morning.
    - Commissioner Holmes asked that the Commission be kept informed of all OSHA complaints. The Chief feels the department is in compliance.

## **FIRE COMMISSION CONTINUED**

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- Time and Attendance system is going forward and the Chief hopes to have a presentation for the Commission next month.
- Training: Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is going forward and EMT refresher is going on.

### **Personnel Issues:** N/A

**Update on Consolidation:** AC Morris stated that there is a Fire Office 2 course in progress; there is a Pump Ops course upcoming. Additionally, there will be a State run Rural Water Supply course, involving multi-state, on the mobilization of tankers & water supply.

AC Morris stated that there was a fire on Old Long Ridge Road and that all personnel, Career Firefighters, Volunteer Firefighters and the paid Firefighters of Long Ridge, all operated accordingly and did very well working together.

**Adjournment:** By motion duly made the Commission moved to adjourn at 6:42pm.