



# STAMFORD FIRE COMMISSION

David R. Martin, Mayor

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

Franklin Melzer  
Richard Lyons, Sr  
Constance Hubbard  
Andrew Holmes  
Gregory Lodato

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## Minutes -Regular Meeting of the Stamford Fire Commission held February 10, 2016

**Call to order:** 5:07pm

**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; Chief Roach, AC Robles, AC Morris, Mr. Jankowski, Director of PSH&W; Absent: Commissioners Hubbard & Lyons

**Public Comment:** Fire Captain Paul Newman, Local 786, stated that they are into the 6<sup>th</sup> year without a contract, they are in mediation now and are moving toward arbitration; they are very discouraged as to how negotiations are going and it feels like from the unions perspective, that they go through, around, and back and forth on a given issue and we get close on where we want to be that the persons attending the negotiations for the City and are there to make decisions are unable to make a final decision. The persons go out, up to 10<sup>th</sup> floor, and come back with some caveat of some sort, stuffed into the proposal, that they felt they had kind of come close to an agreement. With that continued process in mediation they Union feels it is necessary to go into arbitration. They don't want to but they feel like the City is disrespecting them and they want this on the record and to have the Commission aware of this.

Captain Newman wanted to inform the Commission of some additional items. To the Union's, the Chief's and Administration's credit, they are able to sit down and talk and they would like to continue the good dialog, but they do have significant health and safety concerns, and that is specific to moving personnel further out into other districts in a way without the increase of either another engine company or additional personnel, at least on the three-person engine that we have. He stated that they haven't been able to meet those needs with our contract negotiations, so we are going to be discussing it moving on forward, but we do have those concerns for health and safety with our units moving further away from each other, and, it looks like potentially taking another engine out of the populated downtown area, where once we had six engines, about 15 years ago, we had six engines located in the downtown area. The population has grown, the building has grown, and we will be moving to four engine companies in the downtown area, potentially. We still haven't discussed exactly what's going to happen, but we're looking at those things as possibilities. If those things happen, we have serious health and safety concerns for our people, and we do want that on the table. The last item of concern was they moved to a one on one response to single family residential alarms. The Union has some concerns, an example he referenced that occurred prior to the meeting was a call up in the Rockrimmon area of Stamford, where Engine 8, which is a three-person unit, Truck 1, which is out of this Station (HQ) here, were the only two staffed units that were sent to that call and stated "Had it been something, 3 people from our side were the only ones there. Truck 1 is a good 15-minute response time from down here." He stated "There's really no back up to them up in that area. Volunteer units responded, but in the case of Long Ridge, is there only one person on that fire truck at that time? Or are there two fire trucks coming with one person each? We don't know that answer, and there hasn't, to

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my knowledge, they haven't been notifying when they are fully staffed, or aren't fully staffed at this point. So, that's another concern of ours. Just wanted to put that forward to you and let you know our concerns." He stated that they do thank the Chief for at least coming to us and saying, "hey, let's sit down and talk about these things."

### Chief Report:

- Incidents: 42 fire Incidents - 6 Structure fires; Basement fire on Seaside where firefighters saved cats. New 911 CAD system is live. Working on some kinks. There was a conviction from the ARSON Fire on the December 2014 Highland Rd fire. The Police department in conjunction with the Fire Marshal office, obtained an Arson 1 conviction. The individual did not accept the plea and is looking at serious time.
- Budget: 2016-2017 Budget is in and the department and OPM are working on formulas on how to deal with the integrating the new accounts.
- Apparatus: Engine 6 is in for service. And there is the usual set of issues with the fleet.
- Personnel:
  - Retirements: Captain Sierra retired 1/2/2016 and Firefighter Brereton will retire 2/16/16.
  - The exam company was selected and promotional exams for Fire Captain & Fire Lieutenant should be hopefully happening prior to the end of fiscal year with announcement in a few weeks.
- Training: The Annual EMT is ongoing and the MDT (laptops for new CAD) training is ongoing. Commissioner Lyons inquired as to when the probationary firefighters will be sworn in. The Chief stated that he was hoping to have it done when he gets sworn in, along with his Assistant Fire Chief, in a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Melzer asked if the issues raised by Captain Newman are resolved not by the Commission but by you or? Chief Roach stated that some of the issues are contractual and go through H/R &/or the Mayor and some of the issues go through the Chief. The Chief stated that Captain Newman was talking about is that the City & Long Ridge were in negotiations where the City sent a "simple lease agreement" for leasing Station 2 with other caveats, but it was not like the management agreement with Turn of River. The Chief stated that they had positive meeting with them about moving forward with the simple lease agreement and at that point the Chief reached out to the Union and stated that he would like to have impact bargaining to discuss how to staff the fire house and any health and safety issues. Commissioner Melzer and the Chief agreed that these issues were out of the purview of the Fire Commission.

**Consolidation update:** AC Morris reported that 16 Volunteer Firefighters completed FF1 at the Regional Fire School taught by Stamford Firefighters. Commissioner Lyons inquired as to when the new volunteer firefighters are graduating and to please let the Commission know when that is.

The EMR & EMT training is going on for the Volunteers. Commissioner Lyons asked if the EMT/EMR is being taught at the Regional school. AC Morris said that they are not and that the Instructors for the EMT/EMR are hired by the Volunteer departments. Chief Roach added on the subject of the Regional School that under the Governor's budget all funds for Regional Schools have been cut out.

AC Morris stated that they now have all Volunteer records of training, certificates, education and that it is all in his office, and verification from the State in terms of transcripts. Also available are hose records, pump tests, and DOT on almost all Apparatus.

AC Morris received an Annual report for one department, that he is not naming, that shows it has a system where they members are logged in by cell phone. The report goes on to show that this department is manned by 3 members, 24 hours per day. AC Morris would like all the departments to have an annual report like this. Commissioner Melzer asked about the apparatus issues in Long Ridge Fire department

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mentioned at a previous meeting. AC Morris stated that they are working on the issue of DOT inspection on one and pump test on the other. Discussion took place.

**Personnel issues: Motion:** Commissioner Melzer asked for a motion to go into Executive session. By motion duly made by Commissioner Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Holmes and approved by all, the Commission moved into Executive session at 5:25pm.

**Motion:** By motion duly made by Commissioner Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Holmes and approved by all, the Commission moved out of Executive session at 5:37pm

**Motion:** By motion duly made by Commissioner Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Holmes and approved by all, the Commission moved to appoint Fire Captain Miguel Robles to the position of Assistant Fire Chief of the Stamford Fire Department.

**Minutes:** N/A

**Adjournment:** By motion duly made the Commission moved to adjourn at 5:40pm