

**EMERGENCY SERVICES EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF WILLINGTON  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING  
SPECIAL MEETING  
November 12, 2019**

Members present: Peter Tanaka; Board of Finance, From Willington Fire Department #1 (WFD#1): Ron Gantick; President (WFD#1), Trevor Gantick; Deputy Chief (Alternate), Stuart Cobb; Assistant Chief (Alternate), From Willington Hill Fire Department (WHFD): Tom Snyder; Chief, Mike Makuch; Lieutenant, James Knight; President (Alternate) and Tom Smith; Member (Alternate). Members Absent: Tyler Millix; Vice President, Alex Moore; Chief and Bobby Knight; Assistant Chief.

Others Present: First Selectwoman Erika Wiczenski and several members of both fire departments.

**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Peter Tanaka.

**2. Seating of Alternates.**

Chairman Tanaka stated that the next order of business is to seat alternates.

**Ron Gantick moved to seat Alternate Stuart Cobb for Chief Alex Moore, seconded by Mike Makuch.**

**Vote: All yes.**

**Ron Gantick moved to seat Alternate Trevor Gantick for Tyler Millix, seconded by Mike Makuch.**

**Vote: All yes.**

**Chief Snyder moved to seat Alternate James Knight for Bobby Knight, seconded by Mike Makuch.**

**Vote: All yes.**

**3. Present to Speak.**

No one was present to speak.

**4. Approval of Minutes.**

**Mike Makuch moved to accept the minutes from the October 9, 2019 meeting, seconded by Ron Gantick.**

**Vote: All yes.**

Chairman Tanaka explained that the reason he called this special meeting is because the last meeting fell on "Trunk or Treat" night and our next regularly scheduled meeting which is tomorrow night November 13<sup>th</sup> is the same night as the Town Meeting which many at this meeting will want to attend; therefore, he moved the meeting to tonight so they wouldn't completely lose traction and momentum.

**5. Discussion of 7 Options.**

Chairman Tanaka stated that at the last meeting Mike Makuch brought up the seven discussion options, and he asked if anyone came up with any more options.

Chief Snyder stated that he had an option that might fall under other options, but it was suggested to him by someone that instead of separating the fire department and the ambulance, that possibly the paid staff has the ambulance and a fire truck and the rest of the organizations both go to volunteers. Mike Makuch thought it might fall under option 4 (2 divisions volunteer/paid) and Chairman Tanaka agreed with that.

Mike Makuch added one more option of regionalization. Mike stated that option could look like a lot of different things. As an example the Town of Willington provides ambulance service to the Town of Union and that could be some form of regionalization Willington is already doing. Regionalization was added as option 8. Chairman Tanaka stated that is probably a good addition because they are looking at regionalization in a lot of stuff and other towns are also. Regionalization was added as item 8.

Chairman Tanaka asked if regionalization is what mutual aid is. Mike Makuch explained that mutual aid is an agreement to back each other up and fill in, and regionalization would be a regular beginning level of response or regionalizing administration, etc.

A discussion was had on the positives and negatives of the first item "status quo". Chairman Tanaka then stated that he would like to take a look at each of the items and get some positives and negatives under each item, then he will make a spreadsheet on it to show where people stand and see if they have anything new or different, have people reflect on them and then rule them out at that point. Mike Makuch then drew a spreadsheet on the dry erase board for the Committee to add the positives and/or negatives to the items.

At this time the Committee discussed at length all eight of the options and put the positives and negatives where they felt those would best fall.

Below is the spreadsheet that came from that discussion:

Option #	Go Home	Opportunity for Improvement	May Re-occur	Unified Financial Planning	Volunteer Retention	Unified Training	Long-Term Strategic Plan	Departmental Communication	? Solve PPS
1. Status Quo	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
2. Separate FD and EMS	No	Yes	Yes	No	(?) Yes	No	?	No	(?) No
3. Single Organization	No	Yes	No	Yes	(?) No	Yes	Yes	Yes	(?) No
4. 2 Divisions Vol./Paid	No	Yes	(?) Yes	Yes	(?) Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(?) Yes
5. Paid Administrator	No	Yes	(?) Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6. Fire Commission	No	Yes	(?) Yes	?	?	(?) Yes	(?) Yes	Yes	No
7. Amend Contracts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(?) No	(?) Yes	(?) Yes	?
8. Regionalization	No	Yes	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Key: (?) Yes means leaning toward yes.  
 (?) No means leaning toward no.  
 (?) Solve PPS means solve paid personnel syndrome.

A long discussion was had on after this committee decides on what option they agree on, how to present it to the members of the departments and the Town, what options could be eliminated, paid administrator, fire commission, paid/volunteer, enforcing the existing contracts, etc.

After more discussion, the general consensus was that option 8, regionalization should be eliminated.

**Ron Gantick moved to eliminate option 8, regionalization from the options, seconded by Chief Synder.**

**Vote: All yes.**

Chairman Tanaka suggested that they table the rest of this exercise and he will send the spreadsheet out to everyone.

**6. Next Steps/Agenda Items.**

Chairman Tanaka would like everyone to ruminate on the spreadsheet for discussion at another meeting.

Stuart Cobb mentioned that CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) season is here and suggested that maybe the two departments jointly come to the next meeting and present what they have for CIP and see if it is still two distinct plans separately or is a combined plan as sort of an exercise. Chief Snyder feels that will get them off track. First Selectwoman Wiecenski is in favor of the two departments working together on their CIP requests; however, for purposes of this committee she's not sure it's the most productive use of time. She stated that on their own the two departments should have that conversation. More discussion was had on this topic.

**7. Chairman's Minute.**

Chairman Tanaka stated that the next meeting falls the day before Thanksgiving and the committee members were in favor of canceling that meeting, and they will meet on their next meeting date which is December 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office Building.

Tom Smith asked Chairman Tanaka if he could highlight Chief Snyder's suggestion of the paid people having one fire truck and an ambulance and integrate that in so the people that weren't here could see that and it is prominent.

Chairman Tanaka stated that he had heard from Chief Moore who had talked to Chief Littell from Tolland and Chief Raiola from Mansfield about being guest speakers. Chairman Tanaka will get in touch with them and see if they can come speak. He would like the committee members to come with their questions for the Chiefs. He will try to have one of them at the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**8. Correspondence.**

None.

**9. Good and Welfare.**

Chairman Tanaka congratulated First Selectwoman Wiecenski on her re-election.

**10. Adjournment.**

**Mike Makuch moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Gantick.**

**Vote: All yes.**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eileen Smith*

Eileen Smith  
Recording Secretary