

**EMERGENCY SERVICES EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF WILLINGTON
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MEETING
December 14, 2023**

Members present: Peter Tanaka; Chairman and First Selectman, From Willington Fire Department #1 (WFD#1): Alex Moore; Chief, Ron Gantick; President, Stuart Cobb; Captain & Treasurer. From Willington Hill Fire Department (WHFD): Bobby Knight; 2nd Assistant Chief.

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. on December 14, 2023 by Chairman Peter Tanaka.

2. Seating of Alternates.

There were no alternates to seat.

3. Present to Speak.

No one was present to speak.

4. Approval of Minutes.

President Gantick moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting, seconded by Chief Moore.

Vote: All yes.

President Gantick moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023 meeting, seconded by Chief Moore.

Vote: All yes.

President Gantick moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting, seconded by Chief Moore.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no and 2 abstentions (Chief Moore and Captain Cobb).

5. Old Business.

a. Capital Equipment Status

1. Building Updates (Next Steps and Challenges Station 13)

Chief Moore stated that they met with the building official a couple of weeks ago so they could see what they would have to do to rehab the building. They already know they must do the siding on the outside, the metal skin and the insulation. He stated that the building official stated that as soon as they do that, the building must be brought up to code. To do that for sleeping areas, they must be independent sleeping areas (no mixed use as they had in the past). They also cannot exit the sleeping areas through the bays, so they would have to punch doors to the outside or have a corridor with doors to have a way out of the building instead of through the bays (cannot exit into the bays as a means of egress as it is considered a hazardous area). The sleeping areas must have sprinklers; all plumbing, electrical, space, bathroom, shower must be brought to ADA compliancy. Chief Moore stated that there is no space in that building to do that. They met with their architect today to start figuring out what to do and how to move forward. He stated that with what it will cost to make that building habitable is not worth spending the money on a 50-year-old building. Chief Moore stated that the drainage has been temporarily fixed. A discussion was had on the drainage and the testing they did on it. Chief Moore stated that the building official mentioned that they will have to get a structural engineer to make sure that the new siding and insulation will hold that building as well as the snow load and approve the sprinkler system. A discussion was had on the easement and where the state owns to. Chief Moore mentioned that their hope is to get federal money. They have found a couple of programs they can try to get, and discussion was had on that.

2nd Assistant Chief Knight mentioned that WHFD is working on getting the wording for the RFP on their new building to send out. Chairman Tanaka asked if the thought was to tear down the church and put the station there? 2nd Assistant Chief Knight stated that they would tear everything down at 25 Old Farms Rd. to put the building up.

2. Vehicle Updates (Station 49 Rescue and Service)

Chief Moore stated that they need to put tires on ET 213.

2nd Assistant Chief Knight stated everything is good right now at WHFD. He stated that they are supposed to be fixing the brush truck, however, it runs in manual mode.

Chief Moore stated that Ambulance 513 is out of service.

2nd Assistant Chief Knight stated that their new service truck is supposed to go next week to get outfitted with lights and radios.

b. Staffing Volunteer Numbers and Paid Coverage

Chief Moore stated that as far as staffing the ambulance with volunteers they don't have enough, which is the same problem other departments have. He stated that they could use a couple more paid staff.

2nd Assistant Chief Knight stated that they have a group of younger people involved in their department and one of them is going to be starting Firefighter 1 soon. Chief Moore stated that they had one person that was going to start Firefighter 1, but Eastern Connecticut Fire School wouldn't allow it because the person was 17 and a person has to be 18 to attend Firefighter 1 there even though the State law allows a 17-year-old to attend. He stated that WFD#1's worker's compensation won't cover the person until they are 18 years old.

c. CIP Status

Captain Cobb stated that he hasn't seen anything come out from Donna Latincsics yet regarding CIP. Chairman Tanaka stated that he also hasn't seen anything for any of the departments regarding CIP. Chairman Tanaka stated that CIP was recently prodded to get started and he will look into what is going on. A discussion was had on CIP, how it works when they start up again, projects that need looking into with other departments, etc.

Captain Cobb stated that he has started to come up with a list of items that are over \$10,000 that they will have to replace at some point. He stated that the list is fairly low. He discussed some of the items that need fixing or need to be replaced and there was a discussion on NFPA regulations regarding equipment, state regulations and how expensive equipment and apparatus is now.

d. Town of Union Discussions

Chief Moore stated that he has not heard anything from the Town of Union recently, but he also has not followed up with them.

Chairman Tanaka stated that in his new role as First Selectman he has met with Brian Foley, Town Manager in Tolland and Bill Morrison, First Selectman in Stafford. He mentioned the ambulance issues in Tolland to the Town Manager, but Town Manager Foley stated that he has more problems with police issues in Tolland than ambulance issues. Chairman Tanaka stated that First Selectman Morrison has some questions about the Stafford Ambulance he is looking into.

e. Tax Abatement/Town Adoption

Chairman Tanaka stated that Chief Snyder has fixed the tax abatement issue and Chairman Tanaka sent the copy to the lawyer to review it, and it is close to what this committee came up with last time with some small adjustments. Next Thursday Chairman Tanaka will be going to the BOF with the finalized copy, so if anyone has any changes to it, get them to him before then. Captain Cobb asked if the financial impact to the change was determined and Chairman Tanaka stated that based on past history, there was an amount of money budgeted for the abatement worked into the budget, and less than half of that was used, and this figure is less than double what they had before, so it should still be within the original budget.

f. Planning For New Buildings. Starting Steps

Discussed under item a.

g. Slate Property Control. Interdepartmental Adoption.

2nd Assistant Chief Knight stated that they had a presentation on Slate Property Control. He stated that they give you a QR code sticker that you attach to your inventory, and it will email you and remind you when something is going to expire. It

can be used for truck checks. He stated that there is one for the truck and in the list and it will give everything that should be on the truck. It is cloud based. Chief Moore stated that it looks like a good program, but it is expensive. 2nd Assistant Chief Knight stated that Slate Property Control is supposed to give them a 30-day trial just to try it out and see how it works. Further discussion was had on this. Chairman Tanaka stated that he wanted to get this conversation started to see if the departments could be combined on this item and keep things integrated.

h. Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (Town SOP Draft) Update?

Chairman Tanaka stated that as First Selectman he can now get into the file and read what was written on this. He stated that it is imperative that the emergency personnel have access to the emergency communications. A discussion was had on this and how it was handled to this point and what could be done in the future to keep everyone needed in the loop. Chairman Tanaka is going to read the policy and make sure that both Chiefs and the Emergency Management Director get copies of it.

6. New Business.

a. New Budget Issues?

Chief Moore stated that they are at 46% right now with almost 6 months into the year, and 2nd Assistant Chief Knight stated that they are at 50%. Chief Moore stated that they have finished all their maintenance on everything, but they have some big repairs coming up. 2nd Assistant Chief Knight stated that their maintenance is done in March.

Chief Moore stated that they will have a budget concern with their Squad if it is deemed it needs to be fixed after being looked at. It makes a big noise right now and it is 20 years old. Captain Cobb stated that it has been in CIP for a couple of years now to do a refurb on it. A discussion was had on vehicles being over 20 years old and how they start to really break down as they get older.

b. Any Concerns That Have Arisen Since Last Meeting

None.

c. Next Steps/Agenda Items

None.

7. Correspondence.

None.

8. Good and Welfare.

None.

9. Adjournment.

Chief Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by 2nd Assistant Chief Knight.

Vote: All yes.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Smith

Eileen Smith

Recording Secretary

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WILLINGTON, CT.

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[Signature]
TOWN CLERK