

**EMERGENCY SERVICES EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF WILLINGTON  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 9, 2024**

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

**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee was called to order at 6:31 p.m. on April 9, 2024 by Chairman Peter Tanaka.

**2. Seating of Alternates.**

There were no alternates to seat.

Chairman Tanaka mentioned that the agenda states that this meeting is on Zoom, however, they are not because the Zoom equipment was taken out of the room for the Presidential Preference Primary. After the primary the stage in the room was removed, a room is being built for the Registrars of Voters to store voting gear required by the State and the Zoom equipment will not be put back in until the room is done.

**3. Present to Speak.**

No one was present to speak.

**4. Approval of Minutes.**

**President Knight moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 meeting, seconded by Chief Moore.**

**Vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (President Gantick).**

**5. Old Business.**

**a. Building Status (Facilities Committee)**

Chairman Tanaka stated that people are starting to volunteer for the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee. He may be able to upgrade the list. A discussion was had on townspeople to ask (a builder), others interested in being on the committee, the fire personnel that are on the committee and the ones that must be voted on at the next BOS meeting.

Chairman Tanaka stated that Mike D'Amato, the Town Zoning Agent has already started working on grants for the building committee. Chief Moore stated that Mike D'Amato found some sort of federal bond that needs a project that has already been started with plans. He stated that the plans that WFD#1 has aren't 100% but money is money. Chairman Tanaka stated that this particular bond is tied to an emergency operations center, so that would be part of the building plan. Chairman Tanaka stated that this is through Sen. Murphy. Chief Moore sent a list of grants that are available to himself, Chairman Tanaka and Mike Makuch. Chairman Tanaka stated that this agenda item will no longer be on the ESEC Committee's agenda and will move to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee.

Chief Moore mentioned that one of their members has been able to help him with heat maps in the stations. He stated that the member took all the data off the emergency recording that both departments use and was able to do heat maps out of everything (response times, etc. you name it, the member can run it). He stated that the heat map shows that they are 30 seconds apart in response time from their stations (WFD#1). He is sharing that with Chief Snyder, and Chief Snyder can also run through the program. They have taken certain things off like Senior Way and High Chase because they skew the data. Chairman Tanaka asked if they separate out the I-84 numbers, so they know what is in Town and what is on I-84. Chief Moore said it can be done, but it is part of their numbers that they count. Chairman Tanaka asked what I-84 does to the call numbers? Captain Cobb stated there are about 2 or 3 calls on I-84 a month. Chief Moore stated that this data does not have mutual aid on it.



Chief Snyder asked where are they at now with the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee? Chairman Tanaka stated that they have the charge for the committee, which is on the Town website, they have appointed one member from each fire department as of right now, one member from the BOS, the BOF is supposed to give them a name of a member tomorrow and there are a couple of townspeople that have been appointed. They have other applicants that have put in for it and they will look through those. Chairman Tanaka stated that Mike Makuch and Selectman Marco are starting to gather information for the committee and are talking to Mike D'Amato and starting to move forward. He stated that they can start meeting after the BOS meeting on Monday night when other members are appointed. Other discussion was had on this including other builders that could be contacted.

b. Staffing - Volunteer Numbers and Paid Coverage, Recruitment Efforts

Chairman Tanaka asked if all the paid positions are filled. Chief Moore stated that they could use some per diem's, but that is a problem everywhere.

Captain Cobb stated that a long time ago before they had nighttime coverage for the ambulance, they did a stipend payment for ambulance calls. He was thinking that if they could offer to pay people to staff the second ambulance if the need arose. For the sake of numbers, he suggested \$75 for the EMT and \$50 for the driver. He stated that an average ambulance call is about 1½ to 2 hours and that's not bad if you think about it hourly. He stated that they would make that much money or more from the ambulance call itself. It would basically pay for itself, and they wouldn't be relying on mutual aid as much if they could get the second ambulance out. Chairman Tanaka wasn't sure if the BOF would go for this. Discussion was had on this and including WHFD being able to do it also and trying to get the Town to approve it. Chairman Tanaka noted that they should get through the budget season and then approach this with the BOF.

Chairman Tanaka wanted to make sure that the Town wasn't getting mutual aid from UConn during their busy times (after basketball championships, etc.), that Willington can cover it's own town during those times and if UConn needs mutual aid during those times that Willington is available. Chief Moore stated that they did have a volunteer crew for the second ambulance last night for the game and they do take that into consideration during UConn's busy times. They were also available for mutual aid to UConn if needed.

WHFD is starting a recruitment effort in May. Chairman Tanaka would like to put whatever they are advertising on the Town website also. Chief Snyder will make sure that the two heading the effort reach out to WFD#1 also.

c. Town of Union (is 5K solid)

Chairman Tanaka asked if the Town of Union is good with paying \$5,000 a year to the Town of Willington for ambulance service. Chief Moore stated they are, and Union said there will be escalators with that payment as the years go on and they will be working on that. He stated that it is all based on call volume.

d. EMS Union Status

Chairman Tanaka asked about the union negotiations for the paid staff and Chief Moore stated that negotiations haven't started yet.

e. Tax Abatement. Eligible Members Submitted

Chairman Tanaka stated that the Tax Collector and Assessor were asking about the tax abatement payments, and he told them if they can give the eligible members money sooner to do so. President Gantick would like the finalized ordinance for the abatement so they can turn in their list of eligible members. WHFD has turned their list in.

f. Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. Everbridge Training and ELM

Chairman Tanaka asked for an explanation of what ELM (Emergency Location Marker) is. Captain Cobb stated that the towns that want to participate for their trails that they have in their town, they can put an emergency locating markers on their trails so if someone is on a trail and needs EMS, they can call 911 and provide them with a marker number they are near to pinpoint their location and directions to get there. Captain Cobb stated that it is up to each individual town if they want to have markers on their trails.

Chairman Tanaka asked Chief Moore if he is gearing up for Everbridge training. Chief Moore stated that he was, but he doesn't have a set date yet. They are working with the Town of Tolland for joint training. Discussion was had on Everbridge and different messaging that can be put out by TN and the Town. Further discussion was had on this and other messaging that is done in the State to contact people in emergencies.

Chairman Tanaka mentioned that Kieren Mullady from WHFD was interested in taking the introduction to WebEOC and asked if Kieren was signed up? Captain Cobb stated that he is working on that with Kieren and getting him registered, but there have been problems with Kieren's email address.

## **6. New Business.**

### **a. New Budget Issues?**

Chairman Tanaka mentioned that tomorrow night is the budget hearing, and he thinks it would be good if some of the firefighters attended as people are upset that their taxes are going up.

### **b. Any Concerns That Have Arisen Since Last Meeting**

Chairman Tanaka asked if the problems at High Chase have been fixed. They are being worked on.

### **c. Next Steps/Agenda Items**

President Gantick recommended that this Committee go to quarterly meetings with the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee now in place.

**President Gantick moved to change the ESEC Committee meeting dates to quarterly meetings (January, April, July and October), seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Knight.**

**Motion passed.**

The next meeting will be held on July 9, 2024

## **7. Correspondence.**

None.

## **8. Good and Welfare.**

None.

## **9. Adjournment.**

**Chief Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by President Knight.**

**Vote: All yes.**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eileen Smith*

Eileen Smith

Recording Secretary

RECEIVED  
WILLINGTON, CT.

2024 MAY -6 P 12:13

*Karen*  
TOWN CLERK