

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

Members present: Peter Tanaka; Chairman and Board of Finance, From Willington Fire Department #1 (WFD#1): Alex Moore; Chief, Ron Gantick; President, From Willington Hill Fire Department (WHFD): Tom Snyder; Chief, Bobby Knight; Assistant Chief, Mike Makuch; Lieutenant/Selectman.

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee was called to order at 6:23 p.m. on March 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. Chairman's Minute.

Chairman Tanaka stated that he wants to get back into the rhythm of having meetings, and after checking with the Selectman's Office this committee is scheduled to meet the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm.

5. Discussion of Budget Conformity/Uniformity.

Chairman Tanaka noted that when the fire departments presented their budgets for the Board of Finance, their budgets lined up nicely except for a few items (paggers being one of them). He would like to see all their items/equipment, etc. lined up the same way. Selectman Makuch stated that should be easy to do on the Town spreadsheet.

6. Buildings Closed to the Public.

Chairman Tanaka stated that on the Town website there is a red warning and if you click on the warning there is a official letters from the two Chiefs saying due to Covid their facilities are shut down to the public. He stated that that should be removed. As WFD#1's station is now closed due to some unexpected construction (mold in the walls), the website will be updated to read that WHFD is open but WFD#1's station at 426 River Road will be closed.

7. Questions Raised Regarding 24/7 EMS.

Chairman Tanaka stated that a member of the Board of Finance (BOF) has decided that Willington doesn't need 24/7 EMS because Tolland doesn't have it so why should Willington. Chief Moore stated that Chief Snyder, himself, Chairman of the BOF, the First Selectwoman and President Gantick from WFD#1 had a meeting and went over this topic and the need to have two people on 24/7. The two fire departments together do not have the volunteer base to run an ambulance at night. Selectman Makuch stated that you won't get an argument about that from this group, and with other towns only running staffed certain times of day it doesn't make it easy to manage the mutual aid that Willington responds to. Chief Moore stated that they can't go backwards on this and stop staffing the ambulance at night. Chairman Tanaka just wants to make sure that this group is on the same page with having 24/7 coverage, which they are. Further discussion was had on this, mutual aid to Union the BOF and questions they have, etc.

8. CIP Discussion.

Chairman Tanaka stated that it looks like everyone is getting their CIP requests for this year. Discussion was had on both departments' construction projects. Chairman Tanaka wants to be sure that both departments and their engineers sit together and know what is going on with each other's projects.

Chairman Tanaka stated that after listening to some people, the way that CIP is configured now it is going to blow out of proportion within this 5-year cycle unless something is drastically reduced. He wants both departments to keep that in mind and to be on their toes and ready to move. Further discussion was had on the CIP plan and money involved.

Discussion was had on the mold problem at WFD#1 and how that will affect money issues with the town.

9. Next Steps/Agenda Items.

Chairman Tanaka would like the committee over the next couple of weeks to start thinking about what needs to be discussed (problems arise, etc.) and agenda items for the agenda for the next meeting.

10. Future Meeting Dates Set for Second Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

Chairman Tanaka stated that he has set future meeting dates for the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm.

11. Correspondence.

None.

12. Good and Welfare.

None.

13. Adjournment.

Chief Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Makuch.

Vote: All yes.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Smith

Eileen Smith
Recording Secretary

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Kenneth
TOWN CLERK