

**EMERGENCY SERVICES EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF WILLINGTON  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 10, 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; 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief, James Knight; President, Mike Makuch; Lieutenant/Selectman.

**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee was called to order at 6:38 p.m. on October 10, 2023 by Chairman Peter Tanaka.

Chairman Tanaka stated that the agenda was not posted online early enough (due to the Town Office Building being closed on Fridays and the Monday holiday), so there will not be any motions made, just business discussed.

**2. Seating of Alternates.**

There were no alternates to seat.

**3. Present to Speak.**

No one was present to speak.

**4. Approval of Minutes.**

Minutes of the July 11, 2023 and September 12, 2023 meetings will be tabled until the next meeting.

**5. Old Business.**

a. Capital Equipment Status

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

Chief Moore stated that the trailer for the staff to sleep in is at Station 13. The propane should be hooked up in a day or two and the sewer will be done in the next week or so. Everything else is up and running with it and people are staying there at night and it has been working well. They were able to get the trailer for just under \$14,000 and with the propane hookup, etc. they will most likely use \$15,000 they were allowed.

Chief Moore stated that they are looking for someone who has a camera to check the underground lines at Station 13 to see if or where they are plugged.

Chief Moore stated that CIP met at Station 13 right after it rained, so everyone was able to see where it was wet. He stated that when they met with the BOS it hadn't rained and it was dry.

Chairman Tanaka inquired if WHFD is working on what they need regarding a new building. Chief Snyder stated that they are shopping around for surveyors and engineers to get the three that are required.

Chairman Tanaka asked if WFD #1 has a concrete next step after getting the trailer in and the lines looked at. Chief Moore stated that getting the drainage part priced out and fixed is next. Discussion was had on the drainage and the building. He stated that it is going to come down to money, and it keeps coming back to the ESEC as to what the next steps are with the buildings according to what he has been hearing from members of CIP and BOF. He stated that no one is going to be in favor of putting \$400,000 into a building and building another fire house. Selectman Makuch stated that there must be some temporary solutions available to fix Station 13 and make the building drier, perhaps using Public Works to dig what is needed. Discussion was had on this and the current drainage. Chief Moore stated that they can't get a company to come and give them a price to get into the drainage and see what the problem might be. Selectman Makuch stated that WFD #1 should check with Admiral right in town as they did a good job for WHFD when they needed lines snaked, etc. Chief Moore will check with them. Chairman Tanaka would like to have an email from both Chiefs with three items on what is step 1, step 2 and step three regarding moving ahead with their buildings (after WFD #1 takes care of their drainage issue and WHFD gets their engineering and surveying done).



## 2. Vehicle Updates (Station 49 Rescue and Service)

Chairman Tanaka asked if there are any problems with apparatus/vehicles that the committee should know about. Chief Snyder stated they are working on getting the new Service vehicle registered. Selectman Makuch mentioned maybe getting a Town plate from DPW in the meantime while they are waiting to get the vehicle registered. Chief Snyder stated that they are working on getting all the apparatus registered again as it was required by DMV then it wasn't and now it is again.

### b. Staffing Volunteer Numbers and Paid Coverage

Chairman Tanaka asked how the staffing was going at WFD #1. Chief Moore stated that they are working to get the full-time position filled and they have had a few gaps in staffing, but it is better than when the full-time person first left. Chairman Tanaka asked how WFD #1 is doing for volunteers, and Chief Moore stated that they have taken on 4 volunteers in the last month. Selectman Makuch mentioned there are a lot of junior firefighters between the two departments.

### c. CIP Status

Chairman Tanaka mentioned that the CIP Committee visited WFD#1 and are now aware that they need to come up with some money for WFD#1's current issue.

### d. Town of Union Discussions

Chief Moore stated that conversations have been started with the Town of Union. The Town of Union knows it is going to be paying this year, but there isn't anything in writing yet. Chief Moore stated that the hard part is that the mutual aid calls to all the other surrounding towns outweigh the calls to Union.

Chief Moore stated that he talked with Chief Littell from Tolland about the amount of mutual aid (ambulance) calls to Tolland and Selectwoman Wicewski was going to talk to the Tolland town administrator. He doesn't know how that conversation went. He stated that Tolland is doing a study on their staffing and working on a plan for nighttime and weekend staffing, but nothing has been implemented yet. Chairman Tanaka stated that he did report to the BOS about the Tolland problem. Chief Moore stated that the difference between Tolland and Stafford is that WFD#1 is going to Stafford for a second or third call when their ambulance is already out, and Stafford reciprocates to Willington when needed. With Tolland it is a first call because they don't have the nighttime and weekend staffing.

### e. Tax Abatement/Accounting Issues

Chief Snyder stated that there is nothing new on the tax abatement since the meeting where it was pushed through to the BOS and it has sat there. Selectman Makuch stated that it hasn't been on the agenda for the last couple of BOS meetings. Chief Snyder stated that he hasn't requested as he isn't prepared to go to a BOS meeting with it (busy season for Chief Snyder at his job and in his spare time has been working with engineers and surveyors for the new building). He stated that the next step is to go to the Town Attorney, then the BOS and request that they call a Town Meeting.

### f. Needs Plan

### g. SOP's/SOG's/A&O's/Accreditation

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

Chairman Tanaka stated that he saw the draft for the emergency notification system (Everbridge) was discussed at one of the BOS meetings. Selectman Makuch stated it has been approved by the BOS, but there are other towns that are involved in this. He isn't sure what the next step is, but the Selectman's Office has been handling the administration, getting in touch with the vendor, getting the website set up for signing up, etc. Chief Moore stated that at some point both departments need to get involved in this and he believes it should just be the two chiefs. Further discussion was had on this.

## 6. New Business.

### a. New Budget Issues

No further budget issues at this time.

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

Selectman Makuch is concerned that this group voted unanimously to move the station study forward to the BOS, but at the BOS meeting it was very clear that not only the BOS, but other people were against it. He stated that he isn't sure how effective this committee is if there is already a plan to reject it. He isn't sure what is going to be

palatable for capital money. Chairman Tanaka mentioned that they should learn from the SBC. If you don't get enough information out at the beginning, then you don't make it at the end. Chairman Tanaka thinks that they need some concrete plans on moving ahead with both departments projects and stay one step ahead. Discussion was had on the study, other studies that have been done in the past, the study delaying fixing Station 13, etc. Selectman Makuch will check with some departments that have had studies done and ask them how long a study takes.

c. Next Steps/Agenda Items

**7. Correspondence.**

None.

**8. Good and Welfare.**

None.

**9. Adjournment.**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eileen Smith*

Eileen Smith

Recording Secretary

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TOWN CLERK