

**EMERGENCY SERVICES EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF WILLINGTON
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MEETING
April 11, 2023**

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

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on April 11, 2023 by Chairman Peter Tanaka.

2. Seating of Alternates.

There were no alternates to seat.

Chairman Tanaka stated he would like to amend the agenda by adding approval of minutes.

Selectman Makuch moved to amend the agenda adding in approval of minutes, seconded by Chief Moore.

Vote: All yes.

3. Approval of Minutes.

Chief Moore moved to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2023 meeting, seconded by President Gantick.

Vote: All yes.

President Gantick moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting, seconded by Chief Moore.

Vote: All yes.

4. Present to Speak.

No one was present to speak.

5. Chairman's Minute.

Chairman Tanaka thanked Eileen Smith for attending the meetings and doing the minutes and he was assured that she is getting paid.

Chairman Tanaka stated that he wanted to talk about resources. He stated that it is the perception of the Town that the two fire departments have been fighting for resources for a long time. Chairman Tanaka would like to see the two departments work together to fight for resources (money, CIP budget, equipment, etc.) and support each other. Chief Moore stated that he thought this year's budget cycle was a good estimate of the two departments working together. Chairman Tanaka stated that it was, and he would like to see it continue. He would like to see both departments standing together when one or the other is asking for apparatus, equipment or whatever from the Town.

Chairman Tanaka made a point that these two departments together provide 100% of the town, 100% of the residents and 100% of the buildings coverage 365 days a year 24/7 and they come in with 10% of the Town budget as opposed to a department that provides coverage for 400 residents, 6 hours a day for 180 days a year, and he believes that the fire departments need more money.

6. Old Business.

a. Budget Conformity/Uniformity Update

Chairman Tanaka thanked Assistant Chief Cobb for his and WHFD's Treasurer Jeremy Chartier's work on lining up their budgets. Assistant Chief Cobb then explained how some more changes will be made in next year's budget to make them lined up better by moving some items into more appropriate line items and names. Further discussion was had on this and aligning their budgets with the Town and vice versa. Selectman Makuch would like this Committee to see a draft of the budget that Assistant Chief Cobb, Jeremy Chartier and the Town Business Manager come up with to see if any changes need to be made.

b. "Buildings Closed" Web Update

Chairman Tanaka asked if the Town website had been updated to the current status of the fire department buildings being open or closed. Chief Moore stated that to date the website has not been updated, but it will be taken care of.

c. CIP Discussion

Chairman Tanaka stated that he wants to make sure that both departments are up to date on each other's building plans so that they can move relatively quickly on this. He stated that CIP added a million dollars for the schools only and he would like to see money only added for the fire departments. Selectman Makuch stated that money was added for the fire departments. Discussion was had on future plans for both departments.

d. Town of Union Discussions

Chairman Tanaka asked how negotiations were going with the Town of Union regarding payment for mutual aid ambulance calls there. Chief Moore stated that they have started talks with Union. He stated that the Town of Union will have to use their ARPA money this year as their fiscal year runs from May to April he believes. The town of Union does realize they need to contribute to the Town of Willington for use of the ambulance. They are still negotiating on a price. The Town of Union wanted to emphasize that 90% of the calls are not for Union residents but are on the highway. Selectman Makuch stated that the same could be said for Willington. A discussion was had on State money when responding to the highway for calls, State money that may now be available when responding to calls at State parks, money in that fund to cover both, etc.

7. New Business.

a. "Buildings Closed" Mold Update

Chairman Tanaka asked if WFD#1 has figured out where the water is coming from that caused the mold at Station 13. Chief Moore explained that both the insurance adjuster and an engineer have been there to assess the situation and they don't believe that the mold is growing very fast, but they know it is there. He explained the results further. Chief Moore stated that the water is coming in from the back of the fire house and drainage will probably be needed all around the building. Chief Moore stated that it looks like the insurance company is not going to pay for any of it. Further discussion was had on this problem and the current state of drainage there, at what point do you decide if it is cheaper to fix it or start over. Chief Moore stated that right now the quote from ServiceMaster is \$32,000.00 to clean up the problem (pull down sheetrock, insulation clean it all out, etc.) that cost does not include plumbing and electrical. Chief Moore stated that they need to get the mold out of there, they need the money to do it and the funding is going to be the hard part. He stated if the insurance company does not cover this cleanup, they will have to look to the Town for the money. Selectman Makuch explained how that would be done.

b. Any Concerns That Have Arisen Since the Last Meeting

Chairman Tanaka asked if there were any concerns that have come up since the last meeting, and Chief Moore stated that fixing their building has been their entire focus. Chief Snyder stated that they have been working on preliminary ideas for building and building space. Chief Snyder stated that all but two air packs

are in service from the ARPA project. They have been working on training and fit testing. Chiefs Snyder and Moore discussed getting some of WFD#1's people trained and fit tested on the air packs. A discussion was had on the new portables and when they would be in.

c. Future issues

Chairman Tanaka asked if there were any plans for the forest area of the Town in the event of a brush fire turning into a forest fire. Chief Snyder stated that once a brush fire or forest fire starts to get out of control, DEEP has resources for those types of situations. Further discussion was had on this.

d. Next Steps/Agenda Items

Chairman Tanaka asked to make sure that everyone is sending him agenda items that need to be covered. Assistant Chief Cobb stated that one item that should be added to the agenda is a Long Term CIP Plan. He stated that both departments should be going out further than the five-year plan that is currently done, maybe going out 10 to 20 years for projects. A discussion was had on the cost of new apparatus, new Town vehicles etc.

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

Chairman Tanaka reiterated that future meeting dates will be the second Tuesday of every month.

9. Correspondence.

None.

10. Good and Welfare.

None.

11. Adjournment.

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

Vote: All yes.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Smith

Eileen Smith

Recording Secretary

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WILLINGTON, CT.

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TOWN CLERK