

**A Regular Meeting of the Fairfield Fire Commission was held on**

**Thursday October 11, 2018 @ 7 pm Fairfield Regional Fire School,  
Conference Room 205 Richard White Way (formerly 205 One Rod  
Hwy) Fairfield, CT 06824**

**CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Joseph Olzacki @ 7:00pm**

**Members Present:** Commissioners: Dorothea Brennan, Craig Van Steenberg, Barbara Rifkin and Harry Ackley Snr.

**Also Present:** Chief McCarthy: D.C. Dunn

**Absent:** Commissioner: John Brannelly and Bill Fitzpatrick

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. (a) Approval of September 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes-**

Commissioner Brennan motioned, seconded by Commissioner VanSteenbergen to approve the September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Chief's Monthly Report- Fire Prevention Month.**

The Annual Senior Citizen Battery Replacement Program has started and it has quite the following, and potentially may have gotten out of hand. This is all done at the town's expense. Chief is looking into better guidelines for the program. Lt Bob Smith working on social media etc. and putting out messages regarding Fire Prevention Month.

Chief said since the last big unexpected flood here in town they are trying to improve communication within the team as there was a lot of street closures etc that the public would have liked to be informed about. The public suggested a mobile application. As Chief stated this is a working progress and will work with Emergency Management and DPW.

a) **Administration-** Chief and D.C. finished First Quarter for FY19. They are reviewing the Salary and OT which is all contractual. Operating Budget stayed flat. Constant visual of shortfalls/overages.

b) **Maintenance- Under D.C. Report**

c) **Donations- None**

#### **4. Deputy Chief's Operations Reports-**

Deputy Chief reported on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> flooding. GFH, Congress St, Stratfield, Kings Hwy sections were especially hit. He said a lot of rescues, abandoned cars, and basements flooding in a 24 hr period of time. Army truck was great and might even look at getting another one. D.C Car 3 vehicle should be in service by January. It needs graphics, electronics/warning, outfitting. The drill that was held at Ludlow Health Center, Jefferson St. went well.

Roof at Station 5: met with contractor this morning, and should start work on Monday. Station I façade completed with some fixture replacements on the way. Grant for 2018 EMPG was submitted to Region 1. Hosted the DEMHS R1 "Finance/Recovery Tabletop Exercise" at Penfield Pavilion.

**5. Southport VFD Update-**

**6. Stratfield VFD Update- No report**

**7. Local 1426 Update – No report**

**8. CERT (community Emergency Response Team) Update-** Norma reported they had the Annual Cert Meeting September 20<sup>th</sup> was outstanding. Detective Beth Irizarry spoke to Cert on De-escalation Techniques. Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> was on sight shelter training at Fairfield Ludlowe School was very busy.

**. 9. Old Business-Fire Marshal's Office Update**

Chief explained that they were trying to work with the Union and HR to keep recently retired Chief Kessler on as a plan coordinator but could not reach an M.O.U agreement between both parties involved. Chief said since OT was approved they are trying to keep up with the demands of the office

and the workload. In addition Chief did speak with First Selectman Mike Tetreau to increase staff and he definitely can see the need. Since the new Fee Structure is in place we will do the best we can for a full time position in 2021.

## **10. New Business-**

### **a) Communications System- resiliency, backup, how this will be effected by the proposed combined dispatch center.**

Chief spoke about how the plans to merge the dispatch center is moving forward and all the work done this far has been by the Consultant. He is hoping to have a draft report out by end of October.

Police Chief McNamara is retiring from the Town of Fairfield but taking a position with Sacred Heart as Director of Security there and Chief said this will benefit everyone having him there.

D.C commented on how professional the dispatchers were from both communities as they were equally affected by the Sept 25/26 flooding. It was great to work with much more of a larger force of dispatchers and to have supervisors on hand too. Everyone is very excited about this and it will be great to work with all employees from a Fire perspective and treat it as One Dept.

D.C spoke about upgrading the communications system. On thought is going over to the back bone of the UASI system. In very early stages and D.C. will update the commission when is more information is available.

Commissioner Ackley noted how great the Fire Dept is along with the ECC dispatches. He feels the commission should recognize these people maybe with a thank you letter. Commissioner Ackley and Fire Chief will draft a letter for the Chairman to review.

Regarding the Fire Marshalls Office Commission Ackley is going to be an advocate for pushing for more help in this office. Commissioner Brennan stated this is what they have requested from the time the New Fee Structure went into place.

Chief noted there is a fundraiser on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 for one of their Fire Fighters and would like if the Commission would consider another date for the meeting.

Chief also noted the Field of Valour ran by Kiwanis: Lt Rich Kazzi puts the flags on Jennings Park for all Fallen Fairfield residents.

Chair Joe will get back to Commission regarding date of next meeting.

**b) Recent Storm Operations- Addressed under DC report**

**11. Adjournment:**

Being no further business Chair Joe motioned to adjourn at 8pm, seconded by Commissioner Vansteenbergen.

Respectfully submitted by Jude Fitzgerald

Recording Secretary