

FIRE COMMISSION  
JANUARY 10, 2019  
MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Fairfield Fire Commission was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2019, at the Fairfield Regional Fire School, Conference Room, 205 Richard White Way (formerly 205 One Rod Hwy).

Members Present: Harry Ackley, John Brannelly, William Fitzpatrick, Joseph Olzacki-Secretary, Barbara Rifkin, Craig VanSteenbergen-Chairman

Members Absent: Dorothea Brennan

Others Present: Denis McCarthy-Fire Chief, Kyran Dunn-Deputy Fire Chief, Norma Peterson-CERT

Chairman VanSteenbergen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman VanSteenbergen led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for fallen firefighters.
- 2) Approval of December 13, 2018 Minutes – **Commissioner Fitzpatrick motioned to approve the December 13, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Brannelly seconded the motion which carried 5-0-1, Chairman VanSteenbergen abstained.**
- 3) Chief’s Monthly Report – Budget Update
  - a) Administration - Chief McCarthy read the monthly agenda topics for 2019. Chief McCarthy and Deputy Chief Dunn said they reviewed the budget with the First Selectman and noted a 1.76% increase which includes a 2% salary increase for Local 1426 and THEA contract settlements. Chief McCarthy explained the new timing to go before the BOS, BOF and RTM in the budget review process.

The new ladder truck will be on the next BOS Agenda under Capital Projects. It is in the fleet replacement matrix for \$1.4M to be paid in 2020. Chief McCarthy explained that the payments will be spread over two fiscal years. AC Bisson evaluated several trucks to determine the best fit for the department.

The Training School Property and Liability Insurance budget increase was resolved favorably. They met with Risk Management to determine if the numbers identified by People’s Bank were accurate. The Training School and the Fire Department will share the increase and both budgets will increase. Chief McCarthy will update the Commission next month on the increase. Chair VanSteenbergen requested the Commission be notified when the budget goes before the BOS, BOF and RTM.
  - b) Maintenance – Deputy Chief Dunn said they are waiting for the Quint to return from the shop and explained the repairs.
  - c) Donations - **Commissioner Fitzpatrick motioned to approve the \$22,500 Colony Pizza donation and the \$500 Shack Sackler Family donation. Commission Rifkin seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 6-0.**

Chief McCarthy said they will use some of the donation money for a Fire Department Family Fun Day and to offset Station #2 kitchen renovation construction costs. Chief McCarthy, Deputy Chief Dunn and Chairman VanSteenbergen will meet with Architect Phil Cerone to discuss the Station #1 seconded floor reconfiguration project.

4) Deputy Chief's Operations Report – Deputy Chief Dunn detailed notable incidents for the month including a 43 Puritan Road two-story residential fire and a Ryegate cape residential fire at which both fires the new firefighters did extremely well. There was also a small Samp Mortar structure fire and a sprinkler activation at Jelliff Corporation.

Deputy Chief Dunn said they have been busy working on the budget with ACs Sherwood and Bisson. They are also working on an AFG grant for SCBA and a new compressor.

Chief McCarthy invited the Commission to the Police Department Swearing In Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at Penfield Pavilion. New Police Chief Lyddy will be sworn in as well as several officers.

5) Southport VFD Update – no report.

6) Stratfield VFD Update – no report.

7) Local 1426 Update – no report.

8) CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Update – Norma Peterson reported CERT hasn't been active during December however they are conducting new training in March and advertising has been helpful to attract new members. They currently have about 100 members. Chief McCarthy is researching grants for additional VMS signs. Ms. Peterson thanked the Fire Department and the Fire School for the use of the building for training.

9) Old Business – none.

10) New Business – Chief McCarthy said they will go before the BOS next Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. to transfer Squad 12 to SWEMS to be used as an equipment carrier for major events. The Town of Stratford will take possession, title and insure as a permanent loan. SWEMS will pay for upgrades and maintenance to get road worthy and the truck will be available to all Towns in the region for mutual aid. It was offered to all Towns in the region.

Chief McCarthy said there will be a Climate Change Program at Penfield Pavilion on February 21, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for municipalities sponsored by DEMHS.

Chief McCarthy said they are working with IT to install fixed cameras on Fairfield Beach Road to be monitored from the ECC to help determine road closures.

Commissioner Olzacki suggested a Fire Department representative attend the Rooster River town meeting next Wednesday.

Commissioner Rifkin said she has not been reappointed and enjoyed working with the Chief, Deputy Chief and Commission.

Chairman VanSteenbergen thanked Commissioner Olzacki for serving as 2018 Chair.

**11) Adjourn – Commissioner Rifkin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Commissioner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Tesei