

FIRE COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 14, 2019
FINAL MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Fairfield Fire Commission was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at the Fairfield Regional Fire School, Conference Room, 205 Richard White Way (formerly 205 One Rod Hwy).

Members Present: Chairman - Craig VanSteenbergen, Harry Ackley, Dorothea Brennan, Joseph Olzacki-Secretary, Tom Bremer.

Members Absent: John Brannelly, William Fitzpatrick.

Others Present: Denis McCarthy-Fire Chief, Kyran Dunn-Deputy Fire Chief.

Chairman VanSteenbergen called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 January 10th, 2019 Minutes** – Commissioner Brennan motioned to approve the January 10th, 2019 minutes **with the following correction under Chief’s Budget Report a paragraph 3 should read as follows: The issue of the Training School Property and Liability Insurance increase was resolved favorably :**

Commissioner Olzacki seconded the motion which carried 4-0-1, Commissioner Bremer abstained.

Chairman Craig VanSteenbergen welcomed the newest member to the Commission, Tom Bremer.

3. Chief’s Monthly Report – Training

a) **Administration** - Chief McCarthy went over the Monthly Facility Report for January that was submitted by Assistant Chief R Bisson. Chief focused on the agencies using the facility.

b) **Maintenance**- Chief reported the positive development of the solar power energy at the Training school facility and will be monitoring the production throughout the year to see the impact on usage. Chief went over briefly the Year to Year Incidents that were higher due to storms and other conditions such as last fall’s flash floods. Chief also noted they are addressing issue of climate change and how it effects operations.

Chief explained the delay on the installation of the trees at the Fire Training center:

There was a flood control barrier designed to protect all facilities at Richard White way(Rod Highway) the construction bids that were received were in excess of the available funding. The Town is seeking the additional CT Dept. of Housing funds to construct this project and should know this spring.

Once the Flood Control Barrier is completed, the State Office of Policy Management will pay for the installation of trees to screen the facility. Director of Public Works Joe Michelangelo will keep the Chief updated.

There is a Fairfield Beach Road Neighborhood Association meeting being held Wednesday February 27th which includes Fire Prevention and Flooding prevention at the Fairfield Beach Road. Commissioner Brennan would like to see some sort of language regarding evacuation route put into place. Chief will speak with the legal team for the Town of Fairfield.

Chair Vansteenbergen made a motion to add to the agenda:

Discussion of the Fire Marshal's report. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Brennan which carried 5-0.

D.C. Dunn went over the Fire Marshal's report for the Month of January which was submitted by Assistant Chief Higgins. D.C. noted on the Fee Schedule the recommendations regarding adding new permit fees to the existing Fee Schedule which was observed by the Fire Marshal's office. Chair Vansteenbergen thanked the Fire Marshal's office for their due diligence in their recommendations.

c) **Donations-** None to report

d) **Schedule of Budget Hearings-** Board of Selectman Budget Hearing is Monday March 4th 2019 at 10amm Sullivan Independence Hall. Board of Finance Budget Hearing is Wednesday March 20th @ 7:30pm.

Chief McCarthy thanked the members of the Commission who attended the Feb 4th meeting for their support.

e) **Ladder Truck update** – Scheduled for the Board of Finance meeting.

4) **Deputy Chief's Operations Report** – Deputy Chief Dunn continues with arrangement for the Promotional Exams to be held weeks of March 4th and March 11th. D.C. Dunn is updating Local Emergency Operations plan.

A new grip hoist was purchased for Res 1, along with the new turnout gear which has a 10 year service life.
Bought replacement stove for Station 2 as due to failure of existing stove we needed to replace.

The station 2 parking on Rakoczy was approved by Board of Police Commissioners.

FYI for the Commissioners: BOS March 4th 10:00am: Regional School only.

BOF March 5th 7:30pm Ladder 2 Capital Request.

BOF March 20th 7:30pm Fire, Hydrant, Regional School.

5) Southport VFD Update – no report.

6) Stratfield VFD Update – no report.

7) Local 1426 Update – Vice President Eric Kalapir welcomed newly sworn in Commissioner Tom Bremer.

8) CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Update – D.C. Dunn noted that March Saturdays for CERT Initial Training. Cert Leadership took Warde tour 1/31/ for backup Shelter orientation and acquainted new commissioner with CERT.

9) Old Business – None to report.

10) New Business –

11) Adjournment – Commissioner Brennan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Commissioner Ackley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jude Fitzgerald
Secretary