

City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown

COMMISSIONERS

John Panza, Chair
Robert Lathrop, Vice Chair
Iris Diaz
Aaron Haley
Andrea Palumbo
Frederick Brown, Alternate
Robert Pimer, Alternate



Michael T. Esposito
Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal
mesposito@cityofwesthavenfd.org

Regular Meeting
CITY OF WEST HAVEN FIRE COMMISSIONERS ALLINGTOWN
Board of Fire Commissioners
July 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall
355 Main Street, West Haven, CT

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of June 5, 2018 meeting minutes.
4. Public Session
5. Finance
Invoices
6. Communications
7. Report of Chief
8. Report of Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal
9. Old Business
Parkview Commons Project
Budget FY 2019
Minor Park repairs due to flooding
Headquarters Roof
Chief's Position
Headquarters – Exterior repair
10. New Business
Discussion and vote on bylaws
Discussion on meeting agendas

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City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown

11. Executive Session.
 - Vacation and Sick Time
 - Personnel Issues

CITY OF WEST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ALLINGTOWN
 July 10, 2018
 Minutes

A Meeting of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT.

Present were Commissioners Iris Diaz, Andrea Palumbo, Aaron Haley, Robert Pimer and Frederick Brown. Also present was Deputy Chief Esposito. Commissioners Panza and Lathrop came in late.

Commissioner Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

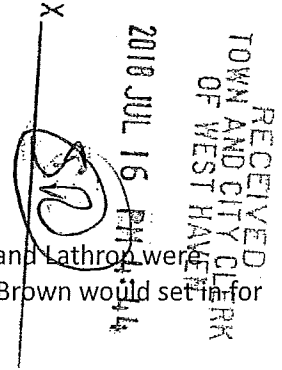
Business Manager Brooks called the roll and declared a quorum. Commissioners Panza and Lathrop were absent. Commissioner Pimer would set in for Commissioner Lathrop and Commissioner Brown would set in for Commissioner Panza.

3. Approval of June 5, 2018 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Palumbo made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 5, 2018 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Lathrop and approved unanimously.

4. Public Session

Louis Esposito asked about the blank sections on the bill list. Business Manager Brooks replied that they are vendors that we usually get a monthly invoice but this month we did not get them yet. Lou asked about the Citizens Bank invoice (\$3,562.16). Business Manager Brooks replied that this was for the lockers that were damaged at Minor Park and the other miscellaneous items that are listed. This is a credit card bill. Lou asked about the bill for Fleet Pride (\$611.59). Deputy Chief Esposito responded that it was for Truck 1. We did try to send it back to the manufacturer to see if it is still under warranty but until we hear from them we have to pay for it and then we can get a credit if it is still under warranty. Lou asked about the paramedic license renewal, if that is something that is in the contract. Brief discussion followed. Business Manager Brooks replied that when they are hired one of the requirements is that they have to stay a paramedic for 15 – 20 years. So we pay for their training and the renewal of their licenses. Lou asked about the Minor Park roof. Commissioner Panza replied that it's on the agenda under old business for tonight. I guess it's not finished. Lou asked if there was any movement with the HQ repairs. Commissioner Panza responded that he would like to meet with the mayor to see where we stand with the building. Lou stated that he can try to set up a meeting with her. Commissioner Lathrop replied that it would be greatly appreciated. Lou asked about the exterior repairs to HQ. Commissioner Panza replied that he would bring him up to date on this issue. He stated that we were looking into getting money to build a new station but that's out of the question because of the cost of getting new land it will cost millions of dollars. So we are even looking for some money to rehab the Minor Park station. We are hoping with the sale of the Admiral Street building we are hoping to get some money to add to that pot. Apparently the Admiral Street building has no land there. We were in some discussions with the prior administration and UNH and again I'll say I emailed the Mayor after Chief Landisio left and one of the issues was what can we do about the buildings. There was some state money there but I think it was used to do some other work in the Allingtown area. So I don't know where we are at with getting a meeting with the mayor. Lou asked about the questions that you sent to the mayor. You asked about the Chief's position and the building problems. Commissioner Panza replied that he asked about the Chief's position and he had some other questions we want to talk to you about. Lou asked Commissioner Panza if he could give him whatever emails you have to the



mayor and any discussion that you had with the previous administration. I'd like to reignite the talks on the firehouse. Lou stated that even if you were to move up to Minor Park there is not enough room for all the equipment that would need to be housed. Commissioner Panza stated that it would take about 9 million to build a new station. Those funds would not be available at the state level but if there was 1.5 million available we could focus on taking the Minor Park station and acquiring some property, adding a second floor and putting on a couple of bays there. I know it's not the prime location, but we have the volunteers, the administration offices and a Bunkie program that is part of the volunteer system there. Also if we hire a woman in the next round; I don't think we have the facilities up there. Lou asked if that would be a requirement that you have to house a woman separately. Commissioner Panza replied he didn't know what the requirements are at this time. I think bathrooms and stuff like that may need some separation. I don't know where we stand with the Admiral Street station so if the board, you and the mayor could sit down and have some talk about this it would be helpful. Lou replied well that's why I'm asking these questions. Commissioner Panza stated that he will email Lou to see if they can set up a meeting. Commissioner Lathrop stated Mr. Esposito since you are the mayor's assistant I'm glad to see you here. You can see the little problems and situations that we are in and maybe you can enlighten us on some things as you being an inside source. Now I have an idea and I have mentioned it before. If we were to go up to Minor Park, the old Minor Park Social Club has been abandoned for years. I don't know if there is a lot of tax money owed on that. Margaret stated that someone owns it. Lou replied that we could put the administrative offices there and the Bunkie program but what do we do with the other equipment and the volunteers. Commissioner Lathrop stated that we could always add on a few bays as well. Deputy Chief Esposito responded that the building is infested with animals. You are not going to be able to salvage the building. I'm sorry but the building is not useable. It's a good idea. Commissioner Panza stated that it can be part of the discussion when we get to that point.

Peter Massaro, 8 Chris Jon Circle said that he noticed under New Business, discussion and vote on by laws. You need to bring them to corporation council before you vote on them. Commissioner Panza replied that we can submit them to corporation council for him to review and if there are anything's in there that he thinks we are in violation of state statute or city ordinances, then he can reply to us. Lou stated that from his research you need to have a first reading and then I think you need to wait 100 days and then have a second reading. Commissioner Panza replied that he thinks if it is an ordinance you would have to do that but this is just guidance for the commissioners to go by it's not an ordinance. Peter stated that there are duties of commission in the city ordinance that you can follow. Lou stated again that according to his research you have to have the two readings with 100 days between them. This is in the city ordinance but I can't remember all of it and I didn't know we would be going over this tonight or I would have brought it with me. I'd hate for you to do something and then have it unravel because you didn't follow the proper channels. Commissioner Panza asked if Lou could bring it and let them see it. Peter stated that you are also discussing the Chief's position and I have a carbon copy of the email from the Mayor that was sent to you on how to handle the Chief's position; it has not been done yet. I understand that you are trying to meet with the Mayor and she has given you a few times and you have canceled them or change the meetings and she couldn't change them. Commissioner Panza asked if you are privy to all the emails or just that one. Peter replied he had the one email. So I don't know what's going on. Commissioner Panza stated as in the ordinance this board is in charge of hiring as well as firing. The Mayor is responsible for the signing of the contracts. Peter stated that at the last meeting you said you didn't know about the mill rate and you were at the MARB meeting. I don't know why you are not listening to the Mayor. It seems to me that you listened to the last Mayor and did what he requested but you don't listen to this Mayor. Commissioner Panza replied that that's your perception. If you were privy to the all the emails you would have seen what transpired but you were only privy to one of them. Peter responded that he saw the email that was sent to the commissioners telling them how to handle the Chief's position. Commissioner Panza replied so do you know what it says in the ordinance about hiring and firing. Peter replied that yes he does under the signature of the Mayor. Commissioner Panza replied that the Mayor signs the contract. Brief discussion followed. Peter asked Commissioner Panza to resign as he did three months ago.

Margaret Krzeminski of 1 Robart Street, West Haven, CT said that under new business there is discussion on meeting agendas. She asked if they were going to change them. Commissioner Panza replied that no we just want the commissioners to get them a little earlier. Margaret asked about the Parkview Commons. Commissioner Panza responded that it's on the agenda and when we get to it the Deputy Chief can give us an update. Margaret stated that you are already planning for the Budget for FY 2019. Commissioner Panza asked ebbie if it was for 2018-2019. She replied yes. Margaret asked if there were any surprises for them. Commissioner Panza asked if we had an official budget back from the Mayor. Debbie replied that we do have a budget. Margaret stated that there was a two mill increase in the city budget and that was a shock. She wanted to know if the Allingtown Fire District would pose any more shocks. Commissioner Panza replied that the city budget was a shock to everyone. Commissioner Panza stated that the board had no clue what the mill rate was going to be until it was set by the Mayor. Then we really never got an official letter from her to let us know what the mill rate was set at. Business Manager Brooks stated that we have never gotten anything from the Mayor's office telling us what the mill rate is. I have to ask or look it up online. Margaret stated that she got it at the city council meeting. Commissioner Panza responded that let's be honest we should have had some communication about the budget. We started back in January with the budget prep. Margaret replied well lucky me, I go to the council meetings and I got that information. Margaret asked about the hiring of a Chief. Commissioner Panza replied that we have reviewed the list of the old candidates, but we cannot do anything until we sit down and talk to the Mayor. Margaret asked if we had any way of knowing that the city puts the money that's supposed to go into the pension into the pension. Business Manager Brooks replied that we do know. We get monthly statements from the pension investments and it's on the statement. They are also audited every year. I do keep track of it to make sure the money goes in there. Margaret asked if we are going to have a meeting next month. Commissioner Panza stated that we will have that discussion amongst the commissioner.

Anthony Krzeminski of 1 Robart Street, West Haven, CT stated that last month he wanted to know what the mill rate was for the car tax. Commissioner Panza replied that again we don't have anything official from the Mayor. Anthony asked if you know how much money we got from the boot program. The commissioners were going to find this out for me. Did anyone go down and get the information for me. Commissioner Panza responded not yet. Anthony asked who came up with the idea of the bylaws. Commissioner Panza stated that we had discussion on them as a commission as a whole. Anthony asked when these meetings were held. Commissioner Panza replied that he didn't know but actually we were forming little sub committees. It just got away and we just wrapped it up. Anthony asked when the board is going to look at them. Commissioner Panza said tonight. Anthony asked if those are just your bylaws. Commissioner Panza replied no that he just wrote them. Anthony stated that I understand that you cannot meet with the Mayor. The last administration you were down there all the time. After one of the meetings you went down there and had the a police officer come to my house because you said I threatened you.

Robbin Hamilton of 92 Bedford Street, West Haven, CT said when you talk about sales and repairs of buildings, that sort of thing. I'm wondering are the volunteers involved in these discussions since they do hold the deed to the Admiral Street property. Commissioner Panza replied that he has said at numerous meetings that the city is involved in selling property. That's not our business to do that. I have been in contact with the Volunteer Chief and I have told him that he is a part of all of this. I'm not sure who holds the deed. Of course that would all be worked out if the building was to be sold. Robbin asked to please involve them.

Louis Esposito stated that there was another issue with the pipe being relocated for the Parkview Commons project. More tests have to done. They have to make a wider swing out around the other lines that are underground (ex: gas line). The developer is a little antsy at this time but we should have the answers to relocating the pipe in a few more weeks. The Yale property has started. They are clearing the land.

Commissioner Palumbo made a motion to close Public Session, seconded by Commissioner Panza and approved unanimously.

5. Finance: list of processed invoices was reviewed and accepted.
6. Communications: None
7. Report of the Chief: None
8. Report of Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal: Deputy Chief Esposito gave a written report. Written report will be kept on file.

9. Old Business:

Parkview Commons Project – Louis Esposito explained that there was an issue with the relocation of the pipe. More testing needs to be done to make sure the pipe can be placed in an area where all the other connections come together for the gas, etc. This testing should be done within the next two weeks and then the process will be able to begin.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-Business Manager Brooks stated that she knew what the mill rates are but has not received an updated copy of the budget. Louis Esposito stated that he would get a copy to me. Commissioner Panza wanted to wait to get a copy of the updated budget before announcing the mill rate.

Minor Park Repairs-Business Manager Brooks reported that she had met with Ken Carney to address any outstanding bills on the repair. The lockers came in on July 3rd and the blinds have been ordered. The ceiling in the bathroom still needs to be addressed.

Headquarters Roof-Brief discussion on the roof replacement. Commissioner Panza would like to meet with the Mayor to ask her about Headquarters. Is there a plan to sell it in the near future? Why repair it if it is going to be sold.

Chief's Position-Commissioner Panza wants to talk to the Mayor about this position.

Headquarters Exterior Repair- Commissioner Panza would like to meet with the Mayor to ask her about Headquarters. Is there a plan to sell it in the near future? Why repair it if it is going to be sold.

Approval of April 3, 2018 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Palumbo made a motion to table the April 3, 2018 minutes until next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Lathrop and approved unanimously.

10. New Business: Discussion and vote on by laws- Commissioner Panza handed out an updated version of by laws that he had written to the commissioners and business manger to review. Brief discussion followed and it was decided that Commissioner Panza would make the corrections that the board suggested, then they would be sent out to the board for them to review. After they review them they would be sent to corporation council for them to review and give any guidance needed.

Discussion on meeting agendas-Commissioner Panza stated that he would like to get the agendas a week before the meetings so then he can review it, add anything that he felt needed to be added, then get it out to the other commissioners for them to review, if they wanted to add anything it would go back to Commissioner Panza for his approval and then he would get it back to the Business Manager by noon the day before the meeting so any changes can be made and she can get it to city hall to be clocked in and posted.

A motion was presented to close Regular Session at 8:29 p.m. and go into Executive Session by Commissioner Palumbo, seconded by Commissioner Diaz and approved unanimously.

A motion was presented to conclude Executive Session and return into Regular Session at 8:59 p.m. by Commissioner Palumbo, seconded by Commissioner Lathrop and approved unanimously.

A brief discussion took place about information on vacation, sick and injury time. Business Manager Brooks stated that she has a book with the records in and would bring it to the next meeting for the commissioners to review it.

A brief discussion about canceling the August meeting was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Palumbo to cancel the August meeting due to summer vacations and activities, seconded by Commissioner Haley and approved unanimously.

A motion was presented to adjourn by Commissioner Palumbo, seconded by Commissioner Lathrop and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

All minutes are subject to the final approval of the City of West Haven Fire Department Allingtown Commissioners.

Minutes recorded by Business Manager Brooks